# THE INDEPENDENT

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# TODAY'S NEWS

ENGLAND/ITALY

#### ince leads the team against his Italian friends

A nation waits, or at least the male half of the nation! As English fans prepare for tonight's decisive World Cup qualifying match against Italy in Rome, the burden of captaining the team went to Paul Ince, something of an irony: he only returned to England this summer after a spell with the Italian club Internazionale of

Full World Cup preview, including Scotland-Latvia, in Time Off, pages 24-6

#### British science for sale

In a Nineties version of the brain drain, British scientists are having to sell their expertise abroad in an effort to keep their research departments properly funded. The scientists say it is necessary because the new Government - which many of them voted for have not provided any new money for research. The real problem, though, lies in the unwillingness of British companies to back home grown science and technology. Page 3

#### Hague begins fightback

The Labour Government lacks the core values of Toryism and "don't believe in anything except their own political success," William Hague told the Conservative conference at Blackpool. The new leader's speech mingled apologies with expressions of pride about the Tory heritage and was enthusiastically applauded by

#### 'Straights' face ban

Discrimination is alive and kicking in Clubland - but now it is directed against heterosexuals. Bar-owners in parts of Manchester are employing drag queens and gay doormen to turn away straight night-clubbers. The clubs claim they are simply trying to preserve their authentic gay atmosphere. But is this positive discrimination or the rise of 'heterophobia'? Page 9

#### The Balmoral republic

A "Boer Republic" is being established this weekend just 50 miles east of Pretoria, Its founders - 200 Afrikaner families - say it is their right to go it alone and they have chosen a former British concentration camp, where thousands died at the beginning of the century, as the site. Its name is Balmoral. The blacks they evicted are bitter. Mary Braid reports on page

#### Rory's African diary

Poor foreign aid projects in Africa are threatening the survival of animals and people, the comedian Rory Bremner discovered during his latest trip to Kenya and Tanzania. But he came upon many extraordinary things, from baboons and snakes... to Martin Clunes. His diary can be found on page 19

# SEEN AND HEARD

British scientist wins Nobel Peace prize! Er - make that ig Nobel prize. Harold Hillman, of the University of Surrey las been awarded the IgNobel Peace Prize, awarded for his research report "The Possible Pain Experienced During Execution by Different Methods." published in the journal Perception 1993. The Ig Nobel awards are presented annually in front of a chaotic and loudly appreciative paper airplane-throwing audience for achievements which "cannot, or should not, be reproduced." A rather hurz Professor Hillman protested that he was trying to provide a scientific basis to protest against the electric chair.



WEATHER Time Off. page 2 TELEVISION The Eye CROSSWORD Time Off, page 12

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# Nobel prize for landmine heroes and heroines



Noble cause, Nobel Prize: Jody Williams, co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) with a group of supporters in Oslo, during the conference which finalised the global treaty Photograph: Eric Johansen/Reuters

The Nobel Committee yesterday awarded the Peace Prize to campaigners for a ban on landmines. The award is a tribute to the success of the campaign so far - where Diana, Princess of Wales, played a key role. Steve Crawshaw says it shows how a popular cause can triumph over

governments, arms

Yesterday's award is a triumph for those who believe in winning unwinnable victories. In the words of the Nobel committee's citation, it honours "a process which in the space of a few years changed a ban on antipersonnel mines from a vision to a feasible reality". Those who just a few years ago

manufacturers and the military.

were portrayed by leading politicians as naive dreamers can celebrate. At her home in Vermont, Jody Williams, co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, was "a little stunned" by the news. Ms Williams is joint recipient together with the Campaign, of the £600,000 prize. In London, the Mines Advisory Group, one of six co-founders of the campaign in 1992, was "very, very hon-

oured". An important figurehead for the campaign was Diana, Princess of Wales, whose family said that they were delighted. Her visit to Angola on behalf of the British Red Cross thrust the issue into the public eye as never before. Photographs of Diana's famous walk through an Angolan minefield dominated front pages around the world in January - and became even more famous, after her death. As the Red Cross noted yesterday, her visit was "a turning point". There

were even suggestions that she should be awarded a posthumous peace prize (an impossibility under Nobel rules).

But the Nobel committee was keen yesterday to emphasise that this was not just a posthumous award for Diana: "There were very many people involved."

The first initiative for the Campaign began just six years ago. In 1991, the New York-based Human Rights Watch published The Coward's War, calling for a worldwide ban on landmines. Two months later, Ms Williams - who had always been "the classic good kid", in her own phrase agreed to spearhead the campaign.

For Ms Williams, who celebrated her 47th birthday on Thursday, the news came as "a hell of a birthday present". She started her life in campaigning work 15 years ago, when she was handed a leaflet as she got out of the subway in Washington. She became involved in pressure groups critical of US policy in central America. Through that work, she met leaders of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation who were helping landmine victims obtain artificial limbs. That, in turn, led to the realisation that "just putting limbs on people was [ineffective] if you don't go to the heart of the problem". The coalition began humbly, with one office in Washington and one in Europe ("so we could call it the international campaign.)"

In Britain, the Tory government was less than enthusiastic about a ban, saying that landmines were "legitimate" defensive weapons". Michael Portillo, the former defence secretary, ruefully acknowledged this week that the government had sometimes seemed "indifferent to moral arguments", and that was certainly true of landmines. When Diana visited Angola, junior defence minister Earl Howe described her as a "loose cannon". Peter Vig-

gers, a member of the Commons defence select committee, declared: "The parallel that comes to mind is Brigitte Bardot and cats."

But the politicians' contempt backfired, as the campaign gained momentum. It worked with many people at local level all over the world; and it had an issue that seized the popular imagination, as direct and easily soluble. It was also adept at using the media.

The draft version of the landmine treaty, to be signed in Ottawa in December, was finally agreed by 90 countries at a three-week conference in Oslo last

The knock-on effects of yesterday's historic announcement are likely to be considerable. Within hours, President Boris Yeltsin declared that a previously reluctant Russia was ready to sign. For the moment. the United States remains in the odious company of China, North Korea, and Iraq in opposing the terms of the ban. Washington vesterday expressed its admiration for Ms Williams. But President Clinton was said to be "rock-solid confident" that the US should not sign up for the Ottawa treaty. Washington argues that a ban would force it to defuse minefields along the border between North and South Korea, thus weak-

ening the safety of US troops. Ms Williams said she would telephone President Clinton to press the case, and expressed the hope that those countries which have not yet agreed to sign the treaty would now do so. "This is what bumanity is call-

ing for," she said. She remains tough on the US president - embarrassingly, for the would-be moral White House. "The US continues to try to maintain the fiction that it is a leader on the issue of eliminating land mines ... How can you be a leader if you are not part of

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#### THE NEW INDEPENDENT

#### 'Independent' sales up

The Independent has had a remarkable month. Our ABC sales for September were 288,000, nearly 12 per cent up the previous month, the highest percentage rise of any national paper, broadsheet or tabloid. Our market share is the highest since July 1996 and, year on year, our September rise outshone rivals such as the Times and the Guardian. Liam Healy, chairman of Newspaper Publishing, said yesterday that the shareholders were very encouraged and were "totally committed" to the long-term development of The Independent and our Sunday sister, whose sales are up by 13 per cent.



ISM/Our new culture magazine TIME OFF/ Sport, travel & leisure YOUR MONEY/ Personal finance. property & cars THE EYE/Your full weekly television

# I.Q. of 145 and Can't Remember?

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snowing the or she be British? Flavourings - such as vanilla, are added to enhance the taste. these bright sparks face enor---- Charles Arthur

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# **COLUMN ONE**

## No sugar for Tories in spin doctors' medicine

Forget the victories of Greg Rusedski or the award of the Nobel prize for Literature to iconoclast Dario Fo, the biggest winners this week have been the Labour party's spin doctors.

In the seven days earmarked for the birth of a new Tory party and the coronation of its leader, William Hague, the papers instead have been pre-occupied with a plethora of Labour wheezes and stunts.

Take Monday. Just another 24 hours for Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, who managed to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin, take a trip on the Moscow underground and squeeze in a guest appearance on Russia's top soap House 7, Entrance 4. All guaranteed to bearing the headlines while the Tories were making their way up to Blackpool.

Not content with meeting the world's second most powerful man, Mr Blair was then visited 24 hours later by the world's richest man. Bill Gates was there to "pledge his support", but not his cash, to the Government's obsession with wiring up the nation's schools to the internet. Then those ubiquitous "senior Labour sources" popped up to reveal that the party was assembling a secret dossier on Tories who had been, allegedly, chanting sexual abuse at the new intake of women MPs. No proof was offered, and

none was needed as the media happily swallowed the spin doctor's medicine. Did anything else happen of note? Oh yes, William Hague's far reaching reforms of the Tory party were approved by its membership. But the Conservatives' constitutional earthquake was hardly the stuff that newsdesks dream of and, besides, Mr Hague only got 36 per cent of the vote whereas the Prime Minister, according to those Labour sources again, had a 93 per cent approval rating.

Wednesday. Labour lands another punch and the Conservatives are busy battering themselves to death. Lord Tebbit unhelpfully and hysterically warned that a mix of cultures could turn Britain into "another Yugoslavia" only to be slapped down by the leadership hours later. Labour meanwhile decide it's time to stop teachers helping pupils to cheat, allegedly, in national curriculum tests and that the world needs to know that Greg Dyke - an FOB (Friend of Blair's) and creator of Roland Rat - will produce a new charter for the NHS. Neither had a pressing need for announcements now as both are stories for next summer, but they stole the thunder from the Tories.

And if you have got it, flaunt it. For the Labour press team the fun is not in retailing the news, but in manufacturing it. This was amply demonstrated by Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's mouthpiece, on a fly-in-thecorridors-of-power piece of television shown earlier this week which showed the spin doctor predicting the London Evening Standard's front-page splash and then minutes later brandishing it like a trophy won in the war of words.

And it is not just the big Cabinet players who are courting the media lenses. Anne Taylor, leader of the House, was touring coffee houses in Holland - where marijuana can be freely purchased and smoked - on a fact-finding mission. Of course, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, would never contemplate such a progressive measure but it helps to witness what ministers are missing and gets you onto the news.

William Hague on the other hand appears to be re-reading a speech made earlier by another dashing, right-winger and possible Conservative prime minister Michael Portillo - albeit to the whole conference - just in case anyone missed it the first time round.

Professionally one can only applaud the creaseless art of Labour's spin doctors; but if this carries on it may soon be time to cut out the middle man of the media and simply print the party press release.

**Drinking** 

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Hong Kong (\$)

Ireland (punts)

- Randeep Ramesh

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ource: Thomas Cook

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Diving in: David Bellamy is drawing attention to the plight of reef environments

#### Bellamy swims with sharks to save coral seas

into shark-infested waters yesterday evening to warn of the dangers facing the species due to the destruction of coral reefs.

The environmentalist swam with brown and tiger sharks in a tank at the London Aquarium to highlight a global survey which records widespread damage across the world to the living eco-systems.

Over 200 teams of divers in more than 40 countries took part in the survey to obtain the first-ever snapshot of the state of the world's reefs. studying environmentally fragile areas including Malaysia. the Red Sea and the Caribbean.

The findings highlight an alarming range of threats, including anchor damage, overfishing of commercial species, pollution and damaging dyn-

It is feared that 10 per cent of the world's recfs have already been degraded beyond recovery and that another 30 per cent are rapidly heading that way. Only 1 per cent have any official protection. "If you need proof of the plunder of our coral important habitats on earth."

David Bellamy, the naturalist and broadcaster, dived reefs and the need for an International Year of the Reef, ask yourselves where all the sharks have gone," Professor Bellamy said.

"More and more shark species are appearing in the red data book of endangered species, a sure sign that the natural balance of reefs is in danger.

"Once these large predators have gone to fuel the demand for shark-fin soup and shark steaks, populations of other fish and invertebrates explode, speeding the destruction of coral reefs.

"Of the 109 countries with reefs, over 85 per cent have suffered some kind of damage from our careless actions and in some cases the environmental

and economic consequences have been disastrous. "This destruction simply has to stop, otherwise within 40 years over half our planet's coral reefs will have vanished."

Alastair Harborne, UK Reef Check Co-ordinator said: "Recf Check clearly shows that if nothing is done now to save these rainforests of the seas, we risk losing some of the most beautiful, diverse and

#### Haughey's fib comes home to roost

Charles Haughey, the former Taoiseach, faces a humiliating sale of family silver in order to pay a crippling bill for legal costs later this month arising from his admission that he misled a judicial tribunal.

Assets said to be on offer to private bidders include Inishvickillaune, his private Atlantic island with its own nature reserve, and Abbeville, his Georgian statehome at Kinsealy, outside Dublin, with its large wooded estate, lake, racehorses and deer.

An executive in Mr Haughey's former accountancy firm is exploring how sales could realise funds to meet the legal costs. Discreet soundings are reportedly already being made among potential foreign buyers for the rocky island in the Blaskets off County Kerry.

In the early Eighties Mr Haughey, 72, built a substantial stone holiday home there where guests included his friend François Mitterrand, the French president.

Mr Haughey recently made redundant half the staff at the 280acre Kinsealy estate, some with 27 years service. Such prime development land would command well over £10m, but may not be sold in its entirety. Parts of the land belong to Mr Haughey's



Mr Haughey's financial problems go beyond the expected sixfigure bill from own tribunal legal team. When the McCracken inquiry into payments to politicians holds its final session later this month to fix costs, senior sources say the retired politician will face a huge additional demand incurred by his own failure to tell the truth. That, in turn, forced tribunal officials to mount expensive international investigations to trace bank transactions arranged to conceal the destination of the

In a moment of high drama, Mr Haughey (above), four-time Irish - cern myself about my personal fiprime minister, accepted in July he nances he told the Tribunal. received £1.3m from supermarket

chief Ben Dunne, a confessional U-turn followed by an admission that he had misled the tribunal and his legal team.

Earlier he flatly denied receiving the funds. Mr Haughey also faces rigorous tax inquiries from the Revenue Commissioners, themselves under criticism for failures to verify how Mr Haughey funded a lifestyle costing, the tribunal heard, more than three times his salaried income.

Mr Haughey himself was dis-

missive of such detail. "I just want to say that I did not have a very lavish lifestyle, my work was my lifestyle. I never had to con-- Alan Murdoch

MEDICINE

#### **NHS** defuses Millennium Bomb

Measures to tackle the so-called Millennium Bomb which is expected to play havoc with computers on the cusp of the year 2000 were announced yesterday by the NHS Executive.

By the end of 1998 the NHS must be fully prepared, Chief Executive of the NHS, Alan Langlands, said. A letter from Mr Langlands to NHS man agers lays out a systematic approach to tackling the issue, and by 31 December 1998, chief executives will ensure that all critical systems are ready and in ly tested to cope. Where systems or equipment cannot be repaired or replaced in time, they should ensure that comprehensive action plans are in place.

The NHS Executive will provide a one-stop help desk service to answer queries and give practical assistance to assist the NHS. Mr Langlands said Preparing for the year 2000 is now the highest non-clinical priority in the NHS. As Health Service managers our duty is to patients, and our competence is demonstrated by ensuring that we continue to provide high quality services. The Year 2000 is just such a challenge. "Steps have already been taken to raise awareness of this problem, but now is the time for firm and visible action. This issue will be given priority by Chief Executives and senior clinicians in every part of the NHS."

LIFESTYLE

#### Women complain of sex hangovers

Almost 40 per cent of young women have had sex they later regretted because they were drunk, it was revealed yesterday.

The survey of 200 16-20 year-old girls also found that 55 per cent had started drinking by the time they were 14. Almost half of those questioned said spirits were their favourite tipple.

Lee Kynaston, editor of teenage magazine 19, which carried out the study. said: "While it's clear from the survey findings that sex and alcohol don't mix,

the most dangerous aspect of this is the implications this has for safe sex. "Under the influence of drink, young women are likely to forgo the use of condoms and this can lead to unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and the danger of being infected with the Aids virus. Our message is to think before you drink and make sure the sex you do have is the kind you don't want to forget."

NATURE

#### Crime is in the air for wild birds

Crime against wild birds is still rife, despite interest in the environment at "an all-time high," a leading conservationist body warned yesterday.

Shooting, poisoning and egg-collection increased last year, although the total number of all offences reported was the lowest since 1990; according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Apart from birds of prey, at least 70 birds were illegally shot, including cormorant, grey heron, mute and Berwick's swans. Kingfisher and even blackbird. Nests of non-birds-of-prey robbed included nationally rare birds such as black-throated diver, roseate tern and chough. Fifty-one prosecutions came to court in 1996, 42 successfully, with fines totalling £26,295 and costs £16,330.

Graham Wynne, conservation director of the RSPB, said: "At a time when the interest in birds and their environment is at an all-time high, it is a dis-; grace that the law is so widely flouted." The figures were published as the UK Conference of Police Wildlife Liaison Officers opened in Carmarthen.

#### Axe hangs over ancient village fair

Villagers are going to the polls to decide whether a historic 650-year-old fair. should be scrapped - because it causes an annual crime-wave.

The 300 residents of the picturesque Priddy, in the Mendips, are fed up with crowds of up to 10,000 people descending on the village every summer. are holding a referendum to decide whether to abandon the fair which has been held on the village green since the Black Death in the 14th century. Villagerssay the event, which for centuries centred on a sheep market, has spiralled out of control, attracting people from all over the country and leading to a spate of thefts, drunkenness and violence every time the fair is held. Village postmaster Jim Finlayson, who has lived at Priddy for 40 years, said: "Last year: somebody stole all the gas cylinders from the village hall and left us with a bill for £500." Villagers have until 31 October to complete their poll forms.

HEALTH

#### Secret illness of the unhappy worker

Most people who think they are suffering from stress at work are in fact depressed, a psychiatrist claims. Dr David Baldwin, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal South Hampshire Hospital, Southampton, said: "Sometimes people are not well matched to their jobs or have been promoted above a level they feel happy with ... or they are frustrated or bored." The symptoms of stress? semble those of depression, and, if left untreated, can lead to a worsening of the problem. The key is to seek help early, he said.

● "Coping with stress at work", an audio programme of DIY strategies produced by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, is available from Talking Life, PO Box 1, Wimil, L47 7DD, £13.99.



#### Gossip lands Dempster in hot water

Dunne gifts.



A wealthy aristocrat went to the High Court yesterday in a bid to have gossip columnist Nigel Dempster jailed for allegedly repeating a libellous claim that he failed to make proper financial provision for his ex-wife.

Baron Steven Bentinck is also seeking to sequester the assets of Associated Newspapers, the publishers of the Daily Mail. He brought contempt proceedings against them over an item which appeared in the newspaper in August which, he claimed, meant he was extremely mean towards his wife Nora (above) at the end of their nine-year marriage. His counsel denied this, saying the baron had made substantial provision for his former wife.

Andrew Caldecott QC, for the newspaper, argued that no breach of its undertaking had occurred. The judge said he would give his ruling on Monday.

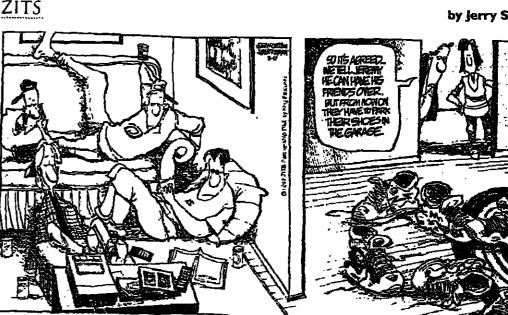


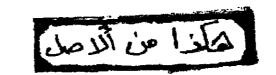












# Underfunded scientists sell expertise abroad

British scientists are preparing to sell their world-beating expertise abroad, discouraged by the new Government's apparent reluctance to fund research.

The Government says the money isn't there. But, says Charles Arthur, Science Editor, the true fault lies elsewhere.

David Payne boarded a plane back from the US yesterday feeling pleased. He may have secured the funding for the University of Southampton's Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC) to continue its 30 years of ground-breaking research into optical systems, now one of the most important modern



birds

100) W.

Professor Payne's solution is simple: sell the expertise of the 120 staff at the ORC to the University of Connecticut, lock, applied research. stock and barrel. Why would be do that? Because from 1999, half of the ORC's funding, a published and available world-£2m grant from the UK's Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) is being cut. Only short-term projects - a couple of years - will be considered.

As an innovator who has made many contributions to the development of fibre-optics. which can carry thousands of channels on glass fibres, Professor Payne's response might seem like pique. But he is making a scientific choice - between a country which seems to value his work, and Britain.

This is not an isolated case. All over Britain, scientists who voted in May for Labour (and many did) in the hope that it would mean a vote for better and more long-term funding, have found that the economic strictures adopted by the party leave no room for maneouvre. Some are taking direct action, like Professor Payne.

The EPSRC insists that the cuts have been planned for some time, and points out that the ORC is already receiving strong industry support, working with 70 companies.

Professor Payne is less happy, even about the radical solution he is considering. The consequence would be that the

thing that we invent and patent would go overseas," he said yesterday. "I don't think the EP-

know the feeling. Last year Sir Harold Kroto, of the Unversity of Sussex, won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry - hours after he was turned down by the EPSRC for funding of a threeyear project into fullerenes, the molecules which won him

like to see the Government approach the 21st century understanding that science is the dominant culture of this century, and will be even more dominant in the next. You need to understand it to survive.

"Anybody who doesn't think that science and technology have freed us from the caves should try a simple experiment. Go home and turn the electricity off for a day. See what it's like."

At the core of this debate is

means that basic research is can apply concepts developed by British scientists with British taxpayers' money. In fact, a Japanese government study found that more than half of the concepts and discoveries that its companies were exploiting had originated in the UK.

abandon basic research funding? Today John Battle, the inminister with responsibility for science and technology, is meeting the pressure group Save British Science in Leeds. Denis Noble, SBS's secretary, said: "We are specifically going to follow up on a comment he made last week, that he is very worried whether there will be enough seedcorn for the future'. The first issue is how he's going to deliver on that." Mr Battle has made what scientists regard as encouraging noises about funding. But they prefer to judge on actions.

the lesson to be drawn from the we're doing really well at producing and funding basic research here," he said. "But it points the finger at industry.

intellectual property of any-\* The real trouble with funding

The trouble with science funding in Britain doesn't lie with scientists, or the Government. Earlier this week Microsoft announced more funding for the brightest minds of Cambridge University, and the Canadian telecoms company Nortel announced the fruits of the work of Ian Vance - a Briton who has figured out how to send Internet communications over mains

electric cables A Southampton scientist prepares to move his centre to Connecticut to keep it going. Cambridge-based Imutran, which is developing a way to produce pig organs to transplant into humans, has to seek venture capital funding from the US. Britain is full of scientists who are keen to make discoveries that will shake the world, and make their fortunes.But these bright sparks face enor-

British industry. After two recessions, British companies are distrustful of science (and, to some extent, technology), ruled by accountants, and firmly fixed on the short term.

pressure for profits is too great to fund long-term work. But wool-gathering turned out nicely for the scientists at the Roslin Institute and PPL Therapeutics, who produced Dolly the cloned sheep earlier this year. . The Labour message is, surprisingly, correctt: industry should take up where a government corseted by untaxable voters cannot. Industry should start paying for scientific research, and smile Because Bill Gates has to have a successor as richest person in the world. Why shouldn't he or she be British?

-- Charles Archive

SRC has thought this through."
Other scientists already

the prize. Yesterday he said, "I would

the question: how much should the Government fund scientific research? Two definitions are usually offered for laboratory work: "basic" (or "bluesky") and "applied". Basic research asks questions such as what would happen if you got all the atoms in a solid to vibrate in step?" and produces the laser. Applied research takes that and puts it in compact disc players, missile-aiming systems, accurate range-finders and new communications devices. Generally, people argue that government should fund basic research, and industry pay for

But the nature of science

Sir Harold points out that Japanese study is not quite what it seems. "It suggests that Why isn't industry taking up

# mous problems setting light to

Industry complains that the



Sweet words: The ingredients of British chocolate face criticism in Europe that may result in bars of the confectionery being labelled

INTHE INDEPENDENT ON MONDAY

**DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW** Where's a right winger to turn when even the Tories talk tolerance? To Piers

Paul Read, champion

of family values



Oliver Stone makes a Natural Born Killer attack on the American media

**STYLE** Po-faced designer shops - what's the alternative?

SPORT -Gerry Francis in the Tottenham hot seat

### All because the lady loves vegetable fat...

Britain's chocolate is So should the Government under threat from rival confectioners on the Continent who argue that our product is not pure enough to merit the name. As the British scored an important victory this week, Amanda Kelly tries to discover what makes a 'real'-bar of chocolate.

> The last thing on the minds of most chocoholics as they bite into their favourite brand is the exact percentage and make-up of the ingredients. But it seems unlikely they would be so keen on "vegelate".

> At the heart of the debate revolving around a proposed "Chocolate Directive" lies the question of when a bar of checolate stops being a bar of chocolate and becomes some-

> While Britain and six other European Union countries permit up to 5 per cent vegetable fat, the rest of the EU requires chocolate to be made with cocoa butter. Purists argue that the use of vegetable fat means the product is not really chocolate and they say the lower content of cocoa in British chocolate makes it inferior. The makers of British chocolate say these arguments are "ridiculous".

Cadbury's spokesman Tony Brisberough said: "Simply páttáig more cocos into chocolate doesn't make it any more

chocolatey. It just makes it different. And the reason why we use vegetable fat is to give it a nice gloss and a nice snap when you break off your chunk of chocolate."

This week the European Parliament environment committee rejected calls from Euro MPs to make British confectioners change the name of their product. They also rejected demands that British chocolate be called "chocolate with vegetable fat". But, as they voted on European Commission proposals to streamline EU food laws in the interests of the single market, they recommended that bars such as Cadbury's Dairy Milk should be labelled "chocolate with a high

Paul Kirkwood, spokesman for Nestlé Rowntree said: "We are very pleased to be able to continue calling it chocolate because that is what it is ... British chocolate is every bit as good as on the Continent."

The matter will be taken up again in a full session of the parliament, on 22 October, when ministers will try to resolve

John Newman, director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, said: "We are hoping that the European parliament will reject the proposal that we should label all milk chocolate 'chocolate with a high milk chocolate. One of the main problems with this that when the phrase is translated into French it means 'household chocolate'."

#### WHAT'S IN A BAR OF CHOCOLATE?

Fresh liquid full-cream milk

Cocoa mass - the basis of all chocolate products, consisting of roasted cocoa beans that have been ground into liquid. Cocoa butter - the fat from cocoa beans.

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# Third expert casts doubt on nanny case

For the second day running, medical experts have given evidence which contradicts the prosecution case against Louise Woodward, the British nanny accused of murdering her young American charge.

The massive brain injuries from which baby Matthew Eappen died could have heen caused up to two days before he was allegedly murdered by the nanny Louise Woodward, a pathologist told her trial in the United States yes-

Dr Umberto De Girolmi was the third presecution medical witness to admit that the nine-month-old baby's brain baemorrhage could have been suffered before the day he was admitted to Boston Children's Hospital in an irreversible coma.

The doctor also said there was too much brain damage to find evidence to support the prosecution's claim that the haby had been shaken violently before

A consultant neuropathologist, Dr De Girolmi had looked for signs of old injury or disease when he microscopically examined the baby's brain, he told the Middlesex Superior Court in Cam-

bridge, Massachusetts. He had found none - but it was impossible to be more precise about when the fatal injury happened other than that it was within a week of Matthew's death.

"The changes to the brain were within a week, they are not older than a week," said the doctor.

The haby died five days after his admission to hospital on 4 February this The defence claims his brain injury

could have happened earlier and gone undetected before it started re-bleeding either spontaneously or because of mild jarring.

Dr De Girolmi told defence lawyer Barry Scheck that the injury could date back to February 2 - two days before Miss Woodward, 19, called emergency services in panic to say Matthew was barely breathing.

The prosecution alleges that Woodward, of Elton, near Chester, shook him violently and slammed his head against a hard surface in a bitter, frustrated rage because of his crying and her unhappiness with her job with his parents Deb-



Louise Woodward: Injuries may have been caused two days before

orah and Sunil Eappen in Newton, near

Woodward denies first degree murder which carries a sentence of life with-

The pathologist who carried out the post-mortem examination on Matthew said vesterday he did not believe the baby had been violently shaken because of the lack of baemorrhage in the neck muscles and the fact there were no bruises on his neck and ribs to show he had been grabbed.

Mr Scheck asked Dr De Girolmi whether too much of the brain had been destroyed to find the shearing of the brain tissue which would indicate shak-

The pathologist replied: "I agree with

Shortly before the start of vesterday's hearing Woodward was in tears in the courtroom.

She had to be comforted by her defence lawyers but quickly regained her composure before the start of the pro-

#### England fans arrive in Rome amid tight security

A tight but low-key security ring greeted the first several hundred England football fans to arrive in Rome for today's decisive World Cup match against Italy. With Italian police on full alert, backed by British colleagues from the National Criminal Intelligence Service, the first waves of flights and trains passed off without inci-

Fans arriving at Ciampino airport had their bags meticulously searched, causing some delays when charter planes arrived close together and provoking some mutters of irritation. From there, there were specially laid-on taxis to take the fans to their hotels.

Smaller clusters of fans turned up at Termini, Rome's main railway station. Many of them had accommodation arranged nearby and spent the afternoon sitting quietly in the neighbourhood's rather dingy bars. No major problems were reported. The one concern focused on fans buying tickets for areas of the Olympic Stadium where Italian fans will be sitting.

#### 'Canberra' will be scrapped

The much-loved cruise liner Canberra is to end her life in a scrapyard in Pakistan, it was announced yesterday. The 45,000-tonne vessel, which was used as a troop-carrying ship in the Falklands campaign,

left Southampton last night for Pakistan, P&O Cruises said. Launched in 1961, Canherra completed her final 20-night Mediterranean cruise voyage on 30 September ending a career which saw her sail about three million miles and carry one million passengers.

#### Son freed over mercy killing

A devoted son who helped his elderly mother commit suicide to end her life of pain walked free from court yesterday. Peter Pitman, 46, was initially charged with murder after the body of his 75-year-old mother Janet Pitman was found in a field with

a gunshot wound to the head. Pitman, a farmworker, denied murder and was given a nine-month prison sentence suspended for two years after pleading guilty to

aiding and abetting his mother's suicide in a mercy killing. Bristol Crown Court heard how Mrs Pitman had endured 40 years of agony after being struck down with arthritis. She moved to live with her son at Charlton Mackrell, Somerset, 15 years ago but continued to suffer from the crippling disease. The court was told Mrs Pitman was determined to kill herself because of her poor quality of life and had been screaming with pain the night before her death.

#### Dickinson DNA tests extended

Police yesterday began taking genetic samples from 170 French villagers as part of the 15-month hunt for the killer of British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson.

She was raped and murdered in a shared dormitory in a youth hostel in the Brittany village of Pleine Fougeres while on a trip with Launceston community college, Cornwall.

French investigators began DNA-testing males aged between 15 and 35 on a voluntary basis in the village where Caroline was killed in July last year. John Dickinson, her father, who has fought since Caroline's death for a more thorough approach to police inquiries. welcomed the move. He said: "This is something I have campaigned for very hard and I think it is a very important avenue to be gone down. If it does not lead to Caroline's killer being found, then we will try other avenues."

## Blair sets out his plans for Bill of Rights

Historic legislation giving British citizens a bill of rights will be put before the House of Commons by the end of the month.

Katherine Butler reports from Strasbourg.

In Strasbourg for a gathering of 40 European leaders, including the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Germany's Helmut Kohl, Mr Blair committed the Government to early incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. He promised a White Paper setting out the mechanics of this move in 10 days' time and publication of a Bill

shortly afterwards. The move, importing a vast body of European human rights case law directly into British law, should give individuals easier access to arbi-

British rather than European judges will be entitled to rule on whether a person's fundamental rights under the European Convention - the right to life, to privacy and to been violated and citizens will no longer have to take their challenges directly to Strasbourg, where the Human

Rights court sits. "I want the British people to be able to secure their human rights, not only from the European Court but also at home from their own judges. They should not have to go through the lengthy and often expensive process of appealing direct to the Commission and Court here in Strasbourg," said Mr

Britain was one of the founders of the Council of Europe and signed the Human Rights Convention in 1950, but the failure to enshrine its provisions in domestic law has meant that British cases appear before the Strasbourg court more than any others and Britons have generated the court's most high-profile rulings. In the 1970s it forced the criminalisation of homosexuality in Northern Ireland to be overturned, and outlawed birching in the Isle of Man. A ruling in a case brought by two Scottish teachers in 1982 led to

a fair trial, for example - have 1995 the court condemned the British army for the "death on the rock" killings of three IRA suspects in Gibraltar.

Reforms to the European Court launched by leaders yesterday will speed the procedures and cut the waiting time for rulings, which can take up to three years. A single court will sit in permanent session from next year, assessing applications, and the present twotier structure will be scrapped. British citizens will still be able to appeal to the Strasbourg

Mr Biair also gave Britain's backing yesterday to a declaration committing governments to move towards the abolition of the death penalty. Officials stressed that a decision on abolishing capital punishment, still technically on the statute books for treason, still lay in the hands of parliament.

● Mr Blair joined 39 European leaders in signing a commitment to ban human cloning. Chancellor Kohl also committed Germany to a national ban. "Looking back to a dark page of our history where barbarily ruled during the Nazi period, Germans take this issue very seriously," he said.

#### Killer's transfer to Ulster jail to be reviewed

the ending of corporal punish-

ment in British schools and in

The controversial decision to Dewar said he wanted to be sattransfer convicted killer Jason Campbell from Scotland to the Maze prison in Northern Ireland is to be reviewed by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar. Campbell, a Protestant

whose father was convicted of planting a bomb in two Roman Catholic pubs in Glasgow, was jailed for life for the murder of 16-year-old Mark Scott as he made his way home from a football match in the city in 1995. Mark, who was wearing a Celtic top, had his throat slashed in an apparently random attack.

In a radio interview, Mr

isfied that the proper criteria for Campbell's transfer had been met before it took place. He insisted that the final decision on the move rested with him, not with his home affairs minister. Henry McLeish, who has found himself at the centre of the growing row. Mr Dewar told BBC Radio Scotland: "This is a very tragic and very difficult and very complex case."

The move comes following a storm of political protest and criticism. Mr Dewarsaid he did not want to prejudge the case as it had to be decided on the evidence and the facts.

Michael Ancram, the former Northern Ireland Minister, criticised the Government's handling of the case and said it might put a question mark over Mr McLeish's future. "It's quite astounding that a transfer of this sort in a very sensitive area has taken place without the Secretary of State knowing the full facts."

The loyalist politician whose party requested the transfer on behalf of the UVF paramilitaries said today that he-had made mistakes. Progressive Unionist Party leader David Ervine said: "He (Jason Campbell) is not a political prisoner."

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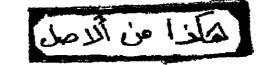
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The British music industry is endangering itself by cosying up to in the Government according to former rock star and agit-prop artist Bill Drummond. Paul McConn asks if there are really no more rebels any more.

It is difficult to imagine the Special AKA singing "Stand Down Tony" or Elvis Costello wanting to "Tramp the dirt down" on this Prime Minister's grave as he did with Mrs Thatcher.

In fact it is so difficult to imagine a rock 'n' roll opposition to a Prime Minister who has Noel Gallagher round for drinks that one erstwhile rock star has called for a halt on the music industry's pally attitude to Labour.

Bill Drummond, part of the art pranksters, the K Foundation, formerly known as the groups Justified Ancients of Mu Mu and the KLF, has attacked record company, Creation, for joining the Government's task force on the arts.

"I'm getting very frightened." Drummond said yesterday. "It seems that the

Dirds

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TODA M.

arts to its bosom, but it is the job of the arts to stand outside the establishment. As soon as PR of a government you are getting into a dangerous area."

Mr McGee maintained on the BBC's Today programme that he was not a rebel which is why he is on the Government's Arts Task Force: "It's to ... make it easier for people in the industry," he said. "The management of bands is currently very inexperienced, there is no training. With government

assistance the music industry

can be juicer." The Government has dedicated itself to assisting the "creative" industries such as film, music and design, which it sees as areas of future economic growth. It even sent a minister. Mark Fisher, to the muddy fields of Glastonbury this year to address the an audience waiting for The Prodigy.

But Drummond is concerned that rock music will be damaged by government intervention and that opposition Alan McGee, head of Oasis's to the Government will be limited: "At the moment there is no cultural opposition."

Despite a proud history of a musical opposition to the ruling establishment, going back to Bob Dylan's protest songs, to carry this out is not known.

establishment has pulled the the trend has petered out since the street-fighting days of high Thatcherism.

From the class war of The you start becoming part of the Jam's "Eton Rifles" to UB40 singing "I am a One in Ten", every band worth their salt in the Eighties lined up to oppose the government of the day. Even Bruce Springsteen sang Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land", anthem, of the International Trade Union Movement, in stadia full of Reagan-voting yuppies. In the Nineties, opposition rock has been championed by anarchocrusty bands like The Levellers, with their support for environmental causes such as the Newbury bypass protests.

For Drummond, who's oppositional antics have included taking a dead sheep to the Brit awards, hijacking the Turner Prize and burning £1m of his own money, believes the rock world's fraternisation with Labour in opposition should stop now it is in power.

He is taking a stand against Labour by setting up a campaign to "F\*\*k the Millennium". The K Foundation took out advertisements in the national press this week to ask people to phone in and say whether they want the K Poundation to "F\*\*k the Millennium". How he plans



Schmoozing: Liam Gallagher, of Oasis, and his wife Meg get together with Tony Blair over drinks at No 10 in July

Photograph: PA

# The MP who didn't inhale

coffee shop it doesn't mean she inhaled. That was the message yesterday from Ann Taylor's office, after it emerged that the Leader of the Commons had popped in to one of Amsterdam's infamous establishments where Moroccan black is as readily

available as café latte. "People seem to be taking two and two and making five," said a spokeswoman for Ms Taylor, after details of the visit emerged. "This should not be seen as an indication that the Government is going to legalise cannabis."

Indeed it shouldn't. The visit to Amsterdam, earlier this week, was part of a three-day fact-finding mission to Hol-

familiarise Ms Taylor with the drugs policies of other countries. As chair of the Cabinet sub-committee on drug misuse, she has travelled far and wide to gather information.

No details were forthcoming as to which coffee shop proprietor played host and officials refused to say what was discussed or - perhaps handled. "It was a private visit. The minister simply. wanted to familiarise herself making it available on prewith the issues," said the spokeswoman.

It was a surreal end to a week in which Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice had expressed support for "detached, objective, independent consideration of de-

Just because she went into a land and France, intended to criminalisation of soft drugs. And it followed on the heels of expressions of determination by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, that he would never bow to pressure to let up on the fight against drugs.

However, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health told a television studio audience on Thursday night that he would consider making cannabis legal for sufferscription on medical grounds.

Next week ministers are expected to announce the name of the person chosen to be the new "drugs tsar" who will coordinate efforts across Whitehall to combat drug abuse. -Steve Boggan



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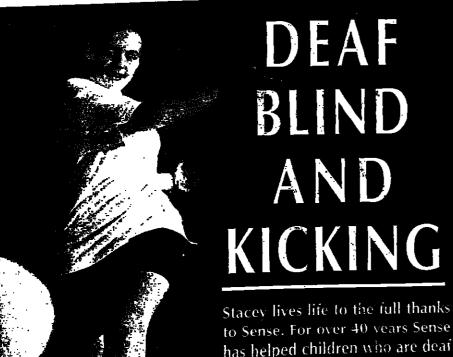
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# Army rape charges dismissed

Six Army officers accused of gangraping a 24-year-old woman walked free from court after their trial was halted yesterday. A judge at Oxford Crown Court decided there was not enough consistent evidence to convict the men, and directed the jury to return verdicts of "not guilty".

The six - captains Philip Bates, 26, Darren Bartlett, 24, and Ian Barlow. 29, Lieutenant Matthew Tupling, 24, and officer cadets Nicholas Oettinger, 20. and Andrew Stout, 20 - had denied raping the woman at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, on 27 May last year.

The jury at Oxford Crown Court had heard that the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, claimed the men assaulted her in a bedroom at the college after a drunken day out at a nearby fête. The officers said she had consented to having sex.

The following day the men sent the woman a bunch of flowers with the message "Sorry about the misunder-

standing. Please accept apologies not "attacks on her morals or on her from all involved."

During the trial a friend of the victim told the jury that she had twice snoken with her on the telephone in the week leading up to the alleged assault. The friend said she was pestered to join in a group sex session with the woman and a group of Army officers.

The court also heard that 10 days before the alleged attack, the woman had had sex with Oettinger and another man at the college while Bates lay beside them in a drunken stupor.

When the woman reported the alleged rape to police six months later, she failed to mention the earlier group sex session. She also failed to tell police that she had had sex with another of the men. Stout, just hours before the alleged rape.

Judge Julian Hall decided that inconsistencies in her evidence made it unsafe to allow a jury to reach verdicts. He said the defence's attacks on the woman at the centre of the case were

way of life, they are attacks on her credibility or reliability as a witness in this case". He was conscious that it was normally for the jury to decide the facts of the case, but he had acted as a filter in this case to ensure a fair trial. However, he added, "If six men think it's a good idea to have sex with one woman, they run the risk of being accused of rape. I think they have brought this prosecution on them-

He said the six realised they had gone too far after the girl was obviously upset - the episode was "almost bound to end in tears". The judge went on: "It was ill thought through by everybody and it does no one any credit." He ordered that the six men's

costs should be paid in full. A spokeswoman for the Army said: "The Army authorities will now consider what action would be appropriate. Until that consideration is

complete we are unable to comment."



Passing the baton: Shana Roberts, an American on the Sacred Run, a 'spiritual relay' around the world led by Native Americans and which this week reached Aberfeldy in Tayside. She is carrying a 'dream catcher', part of the tradition Photograph: Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert of the 19-year-old run which takes a message of peace from village to village



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#### **Vetting measures to** check corrupt police

prevent corrupt and secondrate police officers joining the new National Crime Squad are to be introduced, the head of the force revealed yesterday.

comes into power in April with a workforce of about 1,700, is concerned that because his new team will be dealing with top-level criminals and offences involving huge sums of money it could act as a honey pot to corrupt officers.

As the current co-ordinator of the regional crime squads, Mr Penrose said that he was aware of former officers offering bribes to serving detectives for nelp and information and of some forces giving exaggerated recommendations to get rid of incompetent staff. "There ficers and criminals," he warned.

He said that to try to weed out any officers intent on wrong doing he would be using a number of measures, including double checking some references, having a tougher vetting procedure

Strict vetting measures to for all recruits, and installing a confidential telephone system to enable officers to inform anonymously on suspected colleagues.

He said that he would be "ruthless" in throwing Roy Penrose, director- out any police officers who general of the squad, which did not meet the highest of standards.

The problem of corruption was highlighted last year in the case of John Donald. a senior Metropolitan police drugs squad detective seconded to the south-east regional crime squad, who was ailed for 11 years for selling information to criminals.

The National Crime Squad, which has a budget of £95m and is made up of the old regional crime squads. will work alongside the National Criminal Intelligence Service in targeting the country's most senior gangsters.

Mr Penrose said the lack are some very ingenious of of officers from ethnic backgrounds made it hard to infiltrate some of the criminal gangs, such as Jamaican "yardies", Chinese Triads, Turkish heroin families based in London, and Russiian money launderers.

— Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent

#### **Barratt Browning's love poem** reaches most hearts

Elizabeth Barratt Browning has been hailed as the writer of the finest love poem in the English language for her heartfelt sonnet which begins "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." "How Do I Love Thee", which the Victorian poet wrote for her husband and fellow poet Robert Browning, with whom she cloped at the age of 40, was "a clear winner" of the Nation's Favourite Love Poem voted by BBC1 viewers ahead of works by Shakespeare. Yeats. Robert Burns and others. Programme editor Daisy Goodwin said she was "delighted but not surprised", "When it comes to love, women are streets ahead, poetically at least!"

It is the second year that a woman has topped the annual BBC1 Bookworm poetry poll, which follows celebrations for National Poetry Day on Thursday. Last year's award for the favourite postwar poem was won by Jenny Joseph's "Warning".

#### Medway laps at priory walls

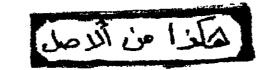
More than half a million pounds is needed to turn back the River Medway River in Kent and save the 13th-century Aylesford. Priory - one of county's oldest buildings, home to a community of working Carmelite friars and once a hospice for pilgrims on their way to the shrine of St Thomas à Becket in Canterbury. Rising river and tide levels risk a unique part of Britain's heritage being swept away. The outside walls of the priory's Pilgrim's Hall form part of the flood defences. But they are bulging out wards and are in urgent need of repair. The Environment Agency has drawn up plans for a £573,000 scheme to strengthen the walks and raise embankments. It is hoped lottery money will be provided for other vital restoration work. - Stephen Goodwin

#### £500,000 fines for digger deaths

Two plant hire companies were ordered to pay £500,000 in fines, and costs following a road crash in which the arm of a digger aboard a low loader swung out and killed five people in approaching cars in December 1995. Bazeley Plant Hire Ltd of St Columb, Cornwall, and Chepstow Plant Hire Ltd of Gwent were found guilty at Truro Crown Court of failing to ensure the vehicle was not a. risk to safety. They employed the driver of the low loader, Mark Wade, 31, of Fraddon, Cornwall, who was found guilty of causing the deaths of five people by dangerous driving. Judge Graham Cottle adjourned sentence on Wade.

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Racing uncertainty: Newmarket's close-knit community has drawn close in the face of a succession of unrelated incursions from the world of drugs and violence

Not only was Mr Cumani the victim in country's outstanding flat racing jockey. The

As the siren from the first fire engine cut

through the Suffolk night air, Luca Cumani

was already in the stable yard leading his

ing building. One of Britain's leading

trainers, he has been entrusted with the care

of horses owned by some of the world's

richest men; Sheikh Mohammed, the Aga

a telephone call from a neighbour, telling

him that the stable buildings at his Krem-

lin Stud Yard were ablaze. But Mr Cumani

might have been forgiven for sleeping with.

one eye open. Only 17 hours earlier another

fire had mysteriously broken out at his

neighbouring stables at Bedford House,

It was nearly 2.30am when he received

Khan, Michael Tabor.

causing severe damage.

horses away from the flames of the burn-

both instances, but also each blaze began

in similar circumstances, in the second-

year-old man in connection with the fires.

Newmarket racing community to step up

said: "They should make sure they know

who is coming in and out of their yards and

make sure they establish a routine. It is very

difficult to protect properties like stables

because of the way they are laid out, but

ian-born Mr Cumani, 48, is known for be-

ing a mentor to Frankie Dettori, the

The new Cadillac Seville sets new standards

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impress you - as it will astound our most distin-

guished European competitors. The Cadillac

Seville right-hand drive. Made in America, but

designed for the United Kingdom. Are you

ready to meet the American Challenge?

Much-loved in the racing fraternity, Ital-

owners must be on their guard."

security amid fears of further attacks.

Police were last night questioning a 28-

Meanwhile fire officers warned the

Divisional fire officer Michael Jackson

storey lofts of the stables.

 $\mathsf{CD}_{\mathsf{AY}}$ 

were arrested after customs officials seized

cannabis resin worth £3.5m in a horsebox.

And the town has still not recovered from

the murder of trainer Alex Scott, 34, who

was shot in the back during an argument

The murder trial at Norwich Crown

Court in 1995, at which stud groom

William "Clem" O'Brien, 58, was jailed for

life, gave an insight into the simmering ten-

sions which sometimes exist behind the

serene public image of the sport of kings.

The jury heard that he opened fire on the

millionaire trainer, shouting: "This is for

Yesterday as Mr Cumani prepared his

horses for a meeting at Ascot, detectives

were seeking to establish whether anyone

might have a grudge against him.

you, you bastard."

with an employee at his stable vard.

Jarvis, who rushed to the scene to give help.

Their reactions were unsurprising given that

the Newmarket racing community has

drawn closer together in recent months in

the face of a succession of unwanted.

though probably unrelated, incursions

a new trainer on the Newmarket scene, was

the victim of a violent armed robbery at

his vard

cash worth £2,000.

Earlier this summer, Kamil Mahdi, 48,

Mr Mahdi, along with his fiancée and

business associate, were tied up and

threatened with a hand gun by two smart-

ly-dressed men posing as racehorse own-

ers. The men escaped with jewellery and

In July, Roger Harris, another New-

market-based trainer, and two other men.

from the worlds of drugs and violence.

trainer has been based in Newmarket for

more than 20 years and the pinnacle of his

career so far was his Derby win with

horses were on the gallops and the re-

maining four horses were quickly led to

housing a dozen racehorses, which narrowly

escaped as flames ripped through the roof

The first fire was started when the race-

But yesterday's attack was on a stable

After yesterday's fire, Mr Cumani said:

We led the horses into the other yards,

by which time the firemen had got the fire

under control. Thank God no staff or hors-

He praised other leading trainers, Sean

Woods, William Haggas and William

es were injured in either blaze."

Kahyasi in 1988.

of the building.

Are you ready to meet the American Challenge?

ove pre

An arsonist is believed to be

Britain's most expensive

the racing community in

Newmarket where, Ian Burrell

called to investigate armed

robbery, drugs smuggling and

racehorses.

murder.

stalking the stables of some of

It is the latest drama to grip

reports, police have recently been

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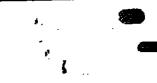
further information on the all-new

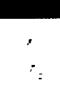
Motor Show, Hall 1.

Cadillac Seville.









#### Scots lose out in football monopoly

The toy maker Waddingtons courted controversy on the eve of the weekend's decisive World Cup qualifying matches by consigning Scotland to the cheapest property in a footballing remake of Mo-

Scotland are almost certain to make the finals if they beat Latvia at Parkhead to-

But a new World Cup France 98 Edition of the London property game puts the Scots on the lowest-ranking square on the board, on a por with Switzerland and below Romania.

While Brazil are top dogs on swanky Mayfair and England enjoy expensive Regent Street, Scotland languish on Old Kent Road - traditionally one of the shabbier streets in London.

The Scottish football legend Denis Law was outraged by the move. He said: "We have done extremely well. We will still qualify again and considering the size of the country that is not bad going. We should do better than the Old Kent Road,"

#### Chaplin family refuse to be made **Charlies over** the euro

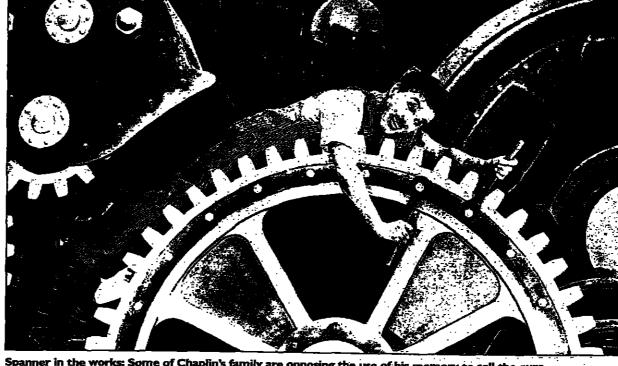
What does Charlie Chaplin make you think of? Comic calamities, an unsteady gait, a bumbling persona perhaps the qualities of an ideal candidate to promote the European currency. But, as Clare Gamer heard, his family have reservations.

Plans are afoot to employ the late Sir Charlie Chaplin to carry the world into the 21st century by extolling the virtues of European monetarism.

A French advertising company believes that the Little Tramp's silent humour will be the perfect way to promote the birth of the euro for a project sponsored by the European Parliament. But though four of Chaplin's eight children voted in favour, three were against and one abstained.

Christopher Chaplin, 35, the youngest, who lives in London, cannot bear the

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN



Spanner in the works: Some of Chaplin's family are opposing the use of his memory to sell the euro

prospect of his father's creation being put to such use. "God help us if it catches on," he exclaimed yesterday. "Imagine Budget Day, or the announcement of another interest rate rise from the Bank of England. Up pops that 'little fellow we will have come to hate and dread."

He also worries about what such a campaign would say about society. "How stupid

have we become," he asks, if every piece of mildly complicated legislation needs to be explained by the "sickly sweet animated figures of our best known heroes"?

But Egon Ellenberg, of FRI Communications in Paris. can think of no one better than Charlie Chaplin to put across the Eurocurrency message. " He's from nowhere and he's from everywhere."

Mr Ellenberg hopes to make a series of 15 animated films, each 26 minutes in length and representing a different European country. The cost would be \$7m, paid for by the European Parliament. The actors Peter Ustinoff and Sophia Loren have agreed to do the voice-overs, to "translate between the man in the street, ie Charlie Chaplin, and the Establishment". Although

he has a majority vote from the family, he must wait until 1 January for the final go-ahead.

As the stream of requests continues - a Chaplin cartoon and a Chaplin theme park are already in the pipeline -Christopher Chaplin will try to be faithful to his father's memory. "I feel we should concentrate on safeguarding the films. It's quite a heritage ... We should treat it carefully."

## Children left at risk of abuse

Ministers have summoned leaders of a local council after a report revealed nearly 200 children were being left at risk of abuse. Genda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, examines concerns that Sefton council has failed its most vulnerable residents.

"Misdirected" resources and "inadequate" services have left both children and the elderly at risk, according to a major review into Sefton social services by the Audit Commission and the So-

cial Services Inspectorate. Nearly 200 children in urgent need of help and protection did not have a social worker and had not had a care plan drawn up. Children's homes in the Merseyside borough were also not being inspected as regularly that they should be, the review found.

Old people were also being put at risk - eight of the council's homes for the elderly did not meet health and safety standards. Nearly 300 assessed as first-priority cases were waiting for assessments or services.

The review estimated that it would take at least £2.5m to bring the homes up to scratch. At the same time they were dogged by high costs. While pri-

vately run or voluntary h cost on average £176 per week Sefton's were costing at their week. The common condesave around 13m, it was calculated.

This is not the first time Section has come made. Earlier this week, Age Concern accused the council of acting like a bully by refusing to help with residential care until an old person has less than £1.500-

the price of a funeral. The joint commission has a carried out reports on 10 authorities. "This is the first report ... where the local authority is not serving well the needs of the local community," Sir Herbert Laming, chief inspector of the SSI, said. "Resources are being misdirected and services are inadequate. Social services have little prospect of being restored unless the council's leadership

takes robust and swift action. The health minister Pani Boateng said that he has insisted council leaders see him next week with an action plan. If they fail to come up with an. effective strategy the Government has the power to impose someone on the department,

Steve Wilds, Sefton's newly appointed director of social services welcomed the report: "It gives a clear agenda for the way forward," he said. "... I am optimistic about the future. I believe the people of Setton can. look forward to the services they rightly deserve from Sefton's Social Services Department."

#### **National Front election** candidate is jailed

A former National Front byelection candidate who planned to "tear down the fabric of society" with a "vile and evil" racist magazine months yesterday.

Robin Gray, 35, was caught with hundreds of copies of Stonner, a publication produced by the farright Combat 18 group.

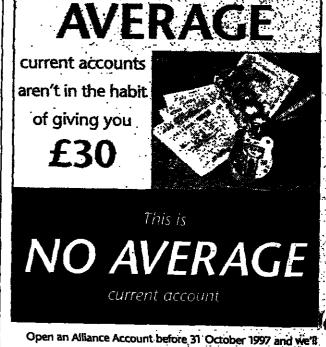
The boxer Frank Bruno's mother, Lynette, received death threats and was forced to move house after her address and telephone number were published. The £1.50 periodical, which preaches violence and death towards Jews, blacks and left-wingers,

has carried similar details about other high-profile personalities. Among them are the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown, the newsresponsible for a hate campaign against Frank Brinto's Vanessa Reserve, and Paul mother, was jailed for 18. Ince. The Part of the actress vanes and Paul England footballer.

And among photographs of former Third Reich leaders were instructions for making lethal car bombs.

Sentencing Gray at Southwark Crown Court. Judge George Bathurst-Norman told him: "In nearly 37 years in the law I thought I had seen everything - but I have never seen material like this, so designed to stir up hatred against individuals and against groups."





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## Immigration rules to cover same-sex couples

The Government yesterday announced that it was changing the immigration rules relating to unmarried couples - including same-sex couples. Immigration minister Mike O'Brien said that the rules Labour had inherited from the previous government were "unsustainable and may have breached human rights law".

A new concession relating on admitting partners in common law and samesex relationships will take effect from Monday. But Mr O'Brien said the criteria applied to them would be "much tighter than for those who can marry", thus re-

taining the "special position of marriage". Under the new rules, a couple will have to show that they have been living together for four years or more and intend to continue to live together permanently. Once admitted, they will have to show that the relationship has continued for a further year before being allowed to settle in the United kingdom.

Ction

In a statement, Mr O'Brien said Labour had always supported the fundamental principle of immigration rules, that someone already settled in the UK - such as a British citizen - could bring their spouse to join them, provided they met tests on the genuineness of the marriage and financial self-sufficiency.

To ensure good administration of the immigration system, "legal marriage must be the key to entry for the partner who is not British or not settled here", said Mr O'Brien. However, some couples were barred by law from marrying, either because one partner could not remarry or because they were of the same sex.

The new proposals were criticised by former Tory Home Office minister Ann Widdecombe, who said: "It undermines marriage and secondly it undermines immigration control. So the Labour Party have managed to deal a severe blow at both in one fell swoop.



Street, the heart of the Manchester gay scene, where the success of the annual Manchester Mardi Gras has been blamed for

attracting inquisitive heterosexual customers to the Photograph: Rob

# **Manchester** club scene turns against heteros

The bars and clubs of the Canal Street area in Manchester, feeling threatened by the popularity of gay culture among the North-west's revellers, are turning straight men and vomen away.

Paul McConn asks if this is heterophobia or positive discrimination.

The attempt by the Conservative Party to reposition itself as gay-friendly is probably the last piece of news the Manr gay village needs.

Bars and clubs have started turning away straight customers in what some have described as wave of "Heterophobia", but which the chibs see as essential to the survival of the gay community, according to a documentary to be screened by Channel 5 tomorrow night.

Clubs like the Paradise Factory and Poptastic, and bars like Manto now employ drag queens and gay doormen to decide whether customers trying to gain entry really are gay.

"We're not anti-straight," says Andrew O'Dwyer, manager of the Paradise Factory, which turns away 400 people every weekend. "They can come in as long as they come with gay friends. But what happens is if you get too many straight people in you get a change in atmosphere, the vibe

changes.
"It also means you could spend the whole night chatting someone up only to discover at the end of the night that you're not going to get anywhere."

"We get accused of discrimination, but it is positive discrimination, to try to maintain the atmosphere that attracts people in the first place."

John Hamilton, manager of Poptastic, says its easy to tell who is gay: "By the way they are dressed, by the way they act, their manuerisms and asking them who they kiss and where they go."

door policy doesn't mean that only gay "clones" can be Sunday 7pm. Mr O'Dwyer insists that his

men and women is that the gay clubs offer a less threatening atmosphere than heterosexnal venues. "They know it is a niceeasy-going atmosphere and its a place where they can just chill out," Gordon Edwards, a doorman at the Paradise Factory told Channel 5. "You don't get the normal, how can you say it idiot blokes, like you a n mally get in a straight club."

Mr Edwards even believes some straight men come to gay clubs looking for women. "The nicer girls who normally get hassled all night, they come here knowing they're not going to get hassled, so you get a straight lad who uses his head a bit and comes here."

Mr O'Dwyer is also concerned about the kind of straight men he lets in - in case they take offence at being approached by gay men. "If a woman gets her burn touched by a man she's offended. If a straight man has his bum touched by another man it an cause quite a bit of of-

Mr O'Dwyer blames the success of the annual Manchester gay Mardi Gras, which this year attracted 130,000 people to the gay village, and means there is now a rash of bars opening or planned that

bars here who are almost homophobic, they are just cashing in. Some of the breweries are making an effort to maintain a gay atmosphere, but they're still just interested in

"Then there are restaurants like the Mash and Air, which is very nice, but is attracting the yuppic Cheshire set who would never have been seen here before".

#### admitted. "Rosie, who does the vetting on the door, is a gay person who spends a lot of time in gay clubs and bars and just gets to know the faces. And there are people we turn away who start to get abusive shouting "faggots" and "queers" - so you know you've made the right decision." The attraction for straight

will not be strictly gay. There are people opening

# Resort stabbing

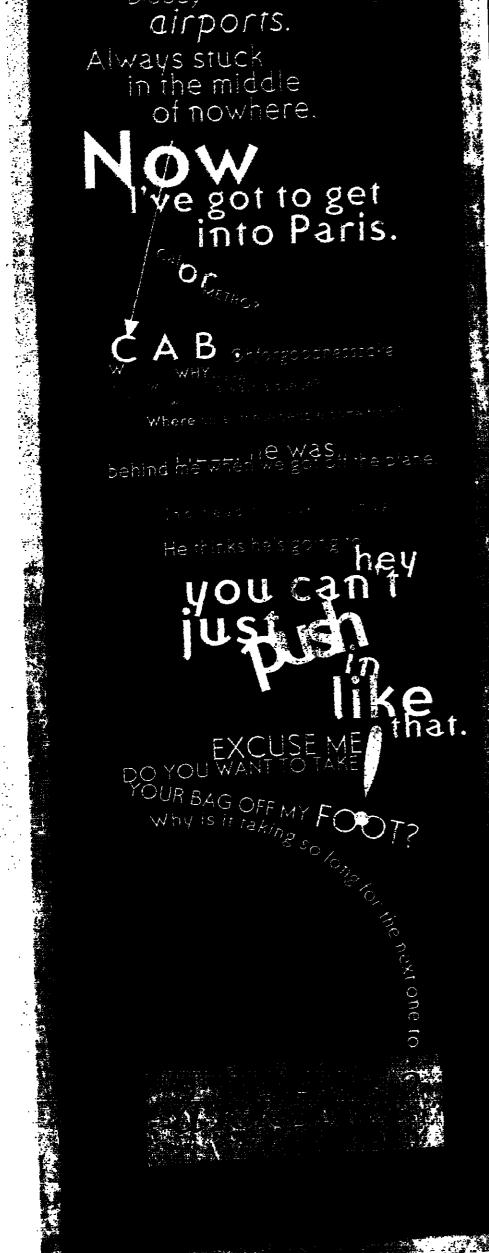
A Spanish man was due to be a mobile phone company in questioned today in connection with the murder of a British holidaymaker who was found stabbed to death on a tourist beach. The body of 50-year-old Peter Simms was found on the beach at Sitges, a popular resort south of Barcelona, on Wednesday.

A local man had been arrested in connection with Mr Simms' murder and was to be interviewed by the examining magistrate investigating the case, said a spokesman at the British consulate in Barcelona. Mr Simms, who worked for

Coventry, and was thought to have been single, was due to return home to Northampton tomorrow, after a two-week holiday with a friend. His brother and mother were too upset to speak about his death. In line with Spanish police

practice, the suspect, a 44year-old local man, was named only by his initials of JOM. A judge is to decide in the next few days whether to release him on bail or keep him in custody. JOM, who was continuing to be questioned by officers, has not admitted murdering Mr Simms.





# BLACKPOOL SKETCH: DAVID AARONOVITCH

# Rapture as William passes the Dunrulin test

The hall at the Dunrulin Nursing Home for Retired Gentlefolk was both packed Hague!" and hushed. Row upon row of residents. dressed in their best suits, filled the chairs. At the side, in a place of prominence, sat Miss Evadne Trott of the local newspaper, physical proof of the success that had attended William's conference so far, and dread judge of its posterity for the future.

The first figure to appear on the small stage was not, however, William himself. After much consultation the Outlaws had decided that the occasion required a build-up.

Eventually trial by combat had resulted in a decision that priority should be given to the young, the female and the essnic minorities ("essnic" being a mistranslation by William from Violet Elizabeth's lisping plea for diversity).

So it was that the day's proceedings commenced with a spirited, incongruous burst of "I've Got A Lovely Bunch of Cocoanuts", played by Cecil on the electric organ, followed by a muddy, happy Violet Elizabeth, who launched into an enthusiastic, if unstructured, commendation of

And then, on cue, William himself appeared. He was immaculate. Every part of his visible physiognomy - ears, knees, neck, forehead and crown - had been scrubbed to a marvellous shine. His tie was straight, his shorts were clean. He was a credit to his mother.

William paused, glanced at Evadne Trott, and began. "This conference has been jolly good, an' we've all been fresh!" He paused again, and his audience obliged him by clapping. "We've been a lot fresher 'n those Tony Blairites." Once again he was clapped. William looked belligerently from side to side, and went on. "That Tony Blair is nothin' but a rotten ol' cheat anyway, what steals all his pol'cies from us. Whenever we have a pol'cy they go an' steal it. S'no wonder we haven't got any pol'cies left. What's the point of havin' pol'cies, when other folks jus' keep on stealin' 'em'."

William felt that he had struck a rich vein of indignation, and that it was - even yet - not entirely exhausted. Mindful of Violet Elizabeth's injunctions on the



subject of compassion, he now raised his voice. "An' what about carin'? They say we don't care. Well we jolly well do care! If I see an ol' lady at the side of the road, I jolly well grab ber arm an' drag her across, no matter how much traffic is

comin'. We care more 'n anyone, acshually. It's jus' we don' always go tellin' people how much we care."

In this confessional mood, William now moved on to the subject of past errors. "An' we made mistakes," he admitted. "A' course we made mistakes. It's only yuman to make mistakes. An'mals might not make mistakes, an' I s'pose robots might not make mistakes. But yumans do, and I am a yuman!" Here William paused for effect, and achieved assent from all around the hall that he was, indeed, a vuman. "Mind you," William continued, "apart from that catapult goin' wrong and breakin' a window at the cottage hospital - and that wun't really my fault, 'cos it was a rotten catapult - apart from that I can't acshually think of a mistake, but I'm sure we made 'em, 'cos we're yuman."

With this flourish William had at last reached the end of his speech, and of the conference. As Dunrulin erupted into a restrained frenzy of brittle applause, William gave a high whistle, and his faithful Welsh collie, Jenkins, leapt into his arms, licking his face joyfully. It was, William thought, his happiest moment.

# The new tolerance fails to extend to consent for gays

John Redwood yesterday said he would vote for the age of consent for gays to be increased to 21. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, finds that the Tory party supports William Hague's revolution on family values, but only

Some Tory traditionalists were ready to accept the need for tolerance towards gays, single parents, and the changing British family. But tolerance did not extend to reducing the age of consent for gays from 18 to 16.

up to a point.

"I believe in the institution of marriage," said Stanley Rendall, a grandfather and chairman of the Norwich North association. "However we would rather not have had all the changes we have had, we have to be tolerant. We must accept there is a lot of change in the world." The change should not extend to legalising gay sex at 16, he said.

Carrying a Union flag and a St George's flag, Brenda Collins, 62, returned to South Holland and the Deepings in Lincolnshire uplifted by William Hague's speech. Like many traditional Tory activists, she said the trend away from married life was "unfortunately a sign of the times".

She added: "I'm not against gay people. In fact, some of them are really nice but they should never have children." She was also opposed to reducing the age of consent to 16. "No way - and I don't like paedophiles. They should lock them up and throw away the key."

John Redwood, the leading right-wing voice in Mr Hague's Shadow Cabinet, was relieved that the passage in the leader's speech on the family was not as liberal as had been billed in some newspapers. He said Mr Hague had reinforced support for the family, not undermined it by support for gay relationships. "If they are not breaking the law, that's fine by me," he said about gays. "I would go for the higher age of consent. I voted for 21 and I would do that again, but that is a free vote matter. I don't go round campaigning on it."

Iain Duncan-Smith, social security spokesman, said the family had to be supported through tax and benefits. "I am simply saying we believe in the traditional family," he said.

Shadow Home Secretary, Sir Brian Mawhinney reflected the mood of many traditionalists when he said the Tories had to accept that the traditional family was changing, through divorce and life-style. "I thought his [Hague's] explanation was exactly right. We have spent so much time defending the concept of Conservative values that impressions were created that didn't accurately reflect the Conservative Party ... we created the impression that if you weren't in a traditional nuclear family, we weren't interested in you. I don't think that was ever true."

#### Sam, friendly face of the party, gets the sack

The Tories called for 'compassion' at the seaside. But Colin Brown discovers that at home it is sacking its own office staff.

Sam Anderson was answering the telephones in the press office at Conservative Central Office yesterday, minding the shop while the staff were in Blackpool for the party's annual conference.

Mr Anderson, 50, will be out of a job by the end of the month. He is one of more than 50 party workers who are being made redundant or given early retirement to cut costs at the party's headquarters in Smith Square and

regional offices. As a messenger who carried press releases to the Commons, Mr Anderson is angry about being made redundant from his £15,000-ayear job after 12 years with the Tory party. "I was always invited to Christmas cocktails when Maggie was in office. I presented her with a blue carnation when she won the election in 1983. I feel very sad about being made redundant." he said.

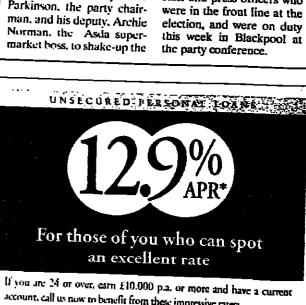
The clear-out of staff has heen carried out by Lord Parkinson, the party chair-



party machine. Lord Parkinson told staff last week that the party headquarters cost £10.5m a year and would go bankrupt if it continued spending at that rate.

Some of those who are going are baffled by the cuts, which include two officials who acted as the link to ethnic groups. Conservative trade unionists and Tory graduates. One insider said: William Hague has devoted part of his agenda to developing the voluntary wing, and reaching out to young people, and ethnic groups, and yet they make these cuts. It doesn't make sense."

There are about 40 redundancies and early retirements in the regions, with a further 20 jobs cut in Central Office, including research staff and press officers who were in the front line at the election, and were on duty this week in Blackpool at the party conference.



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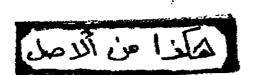
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# Hague offers balance of apology and pride

William Hague yesterday began the long-haul task of rebuilding the fighting spirit of his crushed party. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, analyses the leader's wind-up speech.

Conservative representatives in Blackpool gave their leader a standing ovation for a skilled and accomplished performance in which he tried to bury the May defeat and make his party fit for government once more.

In a key passage, Mr Hague said: "I want to tell you about a changing Conservatism that acknowledges its mistakes. But I also want to tell you about a proud Conservatism that has served this nation well and will do so again."

There were fewer apologies than Michael Portillo made in his conference fringe speech on Thursday night. Nothing was said of the higher tax burden and the imposition of value-added tax on fuel; or for the scapegoating of single mothers, rises in hospital waiting lists, crime rates, unemployment, inner city riots or poor educational standards. While Mr Hague appealed for tolerance, he also expressed an unshakable belief in the values of

traditional family life. His big apology was for the 1990 decision - with Margaret Thatcher as prime minister and John Major as chancellor of the exchequer - to take sterling into the European exchange rate mechanism.

Yet Mr Hague was quick to

point out that almost everyone in the country had backed the decision at the time.

As for the euro, Mr Hague stuck to the Shadow Cabinet compromise formula, saying the Tories would not favour abolishing the pound for the foresceable future.

But, using a phrase that will disturb the party's dichard Euro-sceptics - those who believe that too much power has already been ceded to Brussels - Mr Hague, on the subject of European integration, said: "In my opinion, we are near that limit now."

The strongest passages of the speech were reserved for Labour, although the spindoctors' promised attack on Mr Blair's "bossiness" did not appear in the final version.

One word Mr Hague repeated a number of times was "community" - one of the basic words in Tony Blair's new Labour vocabulary.

The Conservative analysis, confirmed by the leader, is that Labour lacks core values, and their deep-seated cynicism will eventually generate public contempt. Mr Hague said he hoped for success in the local elections in May, where Labour would be defending a record of poor services and high taxes the test on which the Conservatives suffered a landslide defeat in the general election.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, commented: "No matter how hard William Hague tries, he cannot disguise two fundamental problems. Their policies were wrong and remain wrong. And their claims of unity are utterly bogus, as the continuing conflict over Europe shows."



of Land of Hope and Glory

# The freshest and most exciting occasion for years, says leader

In a speech which concentrated more on attacking Labour and rousing the troops than on analysing the future direction of Conservative policy, William Hague said the week had been a success. From Abroms watched as the party faithful gave rousing cheers and a standing ovation to their

The Conservative Party was not dead. William Hague told a packed hall. Last week's Blackpool conference was the freshest, the most constructive and the most exciting for years. A process of reform had begun which would transform the world's oldest political party into a fighting force equipped for the 21st century, he said.

Six months from now, we will have our. the foundation of a new, united, inclusive, democratic, decentralised and open party. Never again will we have a divided organisation. Never again will the voice of our members go unheard, and never again will we allow the good name of our party to be blackened by the greed and selfishness of a few," he said. "This week this party has got up off its knees. This week we've shown that we're back in business."

Attacking Labour local authorities, Mr Hague said the Tories' first job would be to win back council seats in elections next May. "At best, Labour in local government is about failing schools, poor services, littered streets and high taxes. At worst it is about cronyism, corruption and abuse of power. It stinks, and it is time for the Conservative Party to clean it up," he said.

Mr Hague outlined his own brand of conservatism, describing it as democratic, compassionate, tolerant and forward-looking, while respecting traditional values.

Labour might espouse such values but it was insincere, he said. "Just because they use our language, and have swapped the donkey jacket for the Armani suit, doesn't mean they actually believe in the principles that give that language its purpose ... They don't believe in anything except their own political success. As Labour admitted last week, for them the prime goal of government is to secure their own re-election."

Labour had introduced a cynicism into British politics, he said. The Conservatives were going to remain the party of principle.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats were "jigging along to the Pied Piper of Downing Street", he said. "Paddy's proved a real push-over. He's been completely seduced,"

Setting out his political principles, he said he believed in freedom, enterprise, education, self-reliance, compassion and the United Kingdom.

The state should encourage people to help themselves: "Self-reliance brings dignity and satisfaction. We all want to provide for ourselves and our families. That's not greed. It's not selfishness. It's the most ancient human instinct of all." But Tories must continue to work to help others, as they already did quietly through voluntary groups and charities all over the country. "Don't tell me the Conservative Party is not a caring party. I want everyone to understand this: compassion is not a bolt-on extra to conservatism. It's at its very core ...

"When Labour talk about society, they mean the state. When they talk about the community, they mean politicians. And when they talk about compassion, they mean a cheque drawn on someone else's account. But for Conservatives, compassion doesn't end when you've sent off your tax cheque."

The Tories believed in patriotism and they believed in the United Kingdom. Devolution would destroy that, "We have every right to be proud. Ours is a nation which has shaped the civilised world ... To lead the people into the casual destruction of our constitution and leave them with disillusionment and instability in the years to come is an abdication of leadership."

Conservatives believed in a strong Europe, but in a Europe of nation states. "I have to tell you, there is a limit to European integration. And I must say, in my opinion, we are near that limit now. The great danger is not that Britain will be left behind in Europe, but that Europe will be left behind in the world," he said.

Acknowledging the difference which still existed in the party over the abolition of the pound, he underlined his promise to give MPs a free vote on the issue.

Britain still needed the Tory Party, be. concluded. The family that works hard, saves hard, tries to be independent of the state and believes in their country needs the Conservative Party. We shall speak for them. We will always be on their side.

"We leave here this week with our hopes restored, our beliefs reaffirmed, our faith renewed. We leave as a party ready to carn once more the trust of the nation we love."

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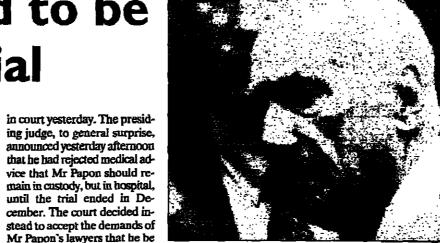
# Papon allowed to be free during trial

Maurice Papon, the Vichy official on trial in Bordeaux for "crimes against humanity", may never serve another day in jail. even if he is convicted. The court decided yesterday that Mr Papon, 87, should be freed during his trial, in deference to his advanced age and medical condition. Under French law, this ruling will also apply if he is convicted and sentenced to prison but lodges an immediate appeal. Such an appeal could last for several years. It took 16 years to bring the present trial to court.

Relatives of some of the 1,558 Jews who were arrested on Papon's orders, and died in

protested bitterly against the in court yesterday. The presidcourt judgment yesterday. At their lawyers' demand, the trial was suspended until Monday. René Jacob, one of several people who have started civil actions against Papon, said: "The worst of all is that whatever the court finally decides, if Maurice Papon takes the case to appeal, he will probably die peacefully at home ... There is nothing more to be done. I'm going home to send back my military papers. As of tonight, I am no longer Jewish nor French."

During his third night in jail on Thursday, Mr Papon was taken ill with suspected heart trouble. He was moved to a hospital Nazi concentration camps, but was well enough to appear



Maurice Papon: Age and health mean he may never spend another night in jail, even if he is found guilty

suffering from acute angina. One of Papon's lawyers, Marcel Rouxel, said that, if he had had to sleep in a prison cell, he was "super-sure" he would have died during the trial.

Michel Slitinsky, the son of one of the Jews arrested on Pa-

pon's orders and the man who dug up the evidence incriminating him in 1981, commented: "They say he is a very old man. In the deportation convoys, there were very young

- John Lichfield, Paris

# Jospin to pay firms that cut working week to 35 hours

companies which move rapidly to a shorter working week, so long as they create new

The Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, made this promise yesterday in an attempt to extricate himself from an earlier promise: that he will impose a 35-hour week within the next five years.

He was speaking at the start of a conference of government, employers and unions on unemployment at the official prime ministerial residence in Paris.

Employers' federations have rejected the Socialists' original campaign promise - a reduction in statutory working hours from 39 hours to 35 without loss of pay as economically suicidal. Mr Jospin, in government, has come around to their point

But the main union federations went to vesterday's meeting still insisting on the spirit, if not the letter, of Mr Jospin's election pledge. Left-wing elements of his own coalition government are also insisting on a

The French government plans to subsidise rapid move to a 35-hour week. The prime minister said yesterday that he would decide how to square this circle after he had heard all sides speak at the conference. He said that he intended to bring forward a framework law which would "launch the movement" towards a shorter working

> However, he hinted that this would, at least at first, be voluntary. Those companies which took the lead, and created new jobs, would be eligibile for "financial aid

to diminish labour costs". The economics of this new idea anpeared strange, to say the least. Even leftleaning French economists and commentators have poured cold water on the original suggestion that a shorter working week will create jobs. Now Mr Jospin seemed to be saying that public finances, already under great pressure to meet the guidelines for a single currency, would be used to "buy" reduced working

- John Lichfield

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freed unconditionally.

The court said it had taken

the decision because there was

that Papon would pressurise

witnesses (most of whom are

dead) and because of his great

age and medical condition. Pa-

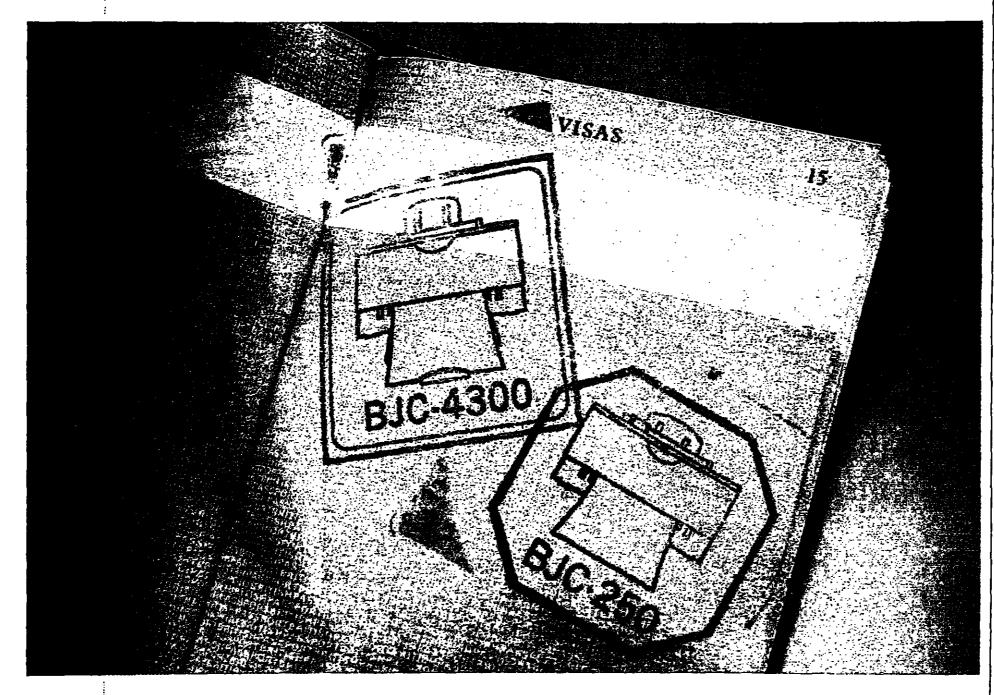
pon, who went on after the war

to become Paris police chief

and French budget minister, is

'no risk of flight", no chance

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#### Italy's PM rebuffs coalition plan by communists

Italy's caretaker Prime Minister Romano Prodi reacted coolly to a hardline Communist proposal for a one-year coalition, saying this must be discussed seriously and not through the media. Mr Prodi told journalists that he was not prepared to discuss any proposals still based on the strong stand the hardline Communist Refoundation took against his austerity budget which led to his government's fall.

#### Serb nationalists win Brcko

Bosnian Serb nationalists won local elections in the fiercely contested town of Brcko, defeating Moslem and Croat parties supported by refugees expelled from the area in wartime. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) mission, which organised municipal elections in Bosnia last month. said three Serb parties won a majority of 30 seats on the 56-member town council. Five parties from the Moslem-Croat federation secured 26 seats on the council.

#### IMF loans for Croatia

The International Monetary Fund released almost \$80m in loans for Croatia. The United States, the IMF's largest shareholder, had led complaints that the former Yugoslav republic was not meeting the terms of the 1995 Dayton peace accord which ended the Bosnia war. The deadlock was broken this week when Zagreb handed over 10 suspects to the war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

#### American runs for Lithuania

president of the Baltic country, finding that he had met the residency requirement. Valdas Adamkus, 70, who recently retired as regional manager for the US Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, has been considered a front-runner for the 21 December elections. But the electoral commission had refused earlier this month to issue Adamkus the necessary voter petitions on the grounds that he had not lived in Lithuania for three years.

#### **Ecstasy racket broken**

Military police in the Netherlands have busted a large-scale drug ring that made millions of ecstasy pills and sold 5,000 to 10,000 per week to two officers, one based in Utrecht, and the other in Munster, north-west Germany. It said the pair were arrested with four other people who ran an operation capable of manufacturing up to 50,000 ecstasy pills per hour. Authorities in Gouda said the officer in Germany had operated on his own, and that German officials did not plan to investigate further.

### **Britain snubbed** in Euro-summit

Russia, Germany and France was very pleased with the dewill hold annual summits to coordinate policies on common problems challenging them, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced yesterday.

The decision is a huge snub to Britain, which is not apparently not considered to be in the front rank of European powers. With French President

Jacques Chirac at his side during a break in a Council of Europe summit, Mr Yeltsin said that the three countries faced similar problems and should work together to solve them. France and Germany al-

ready hold summits every six months to co-ordinate European policy, and the trilateral summit - the first joining countries from across the former Cold War divide - marked a further step in Russia's reintegration into Europe.

"All three have common problems," said Mr Yeltsin, who, in recent weeks, has been urging Europeans to unite more against outside interference, a veiled criticism of the United States and the plan to expand the Nato alliance eastwards,

"We have agreed to meet together every year," he said. "We have agreed this was indispensable for the creation of a Grand Europe which includes Russia." Mr Chirac said he

cision and added: "I think this represents an important European force and a necessary element to further assure peace." Mr Yeltsin, looking fit after

his heart surgery last year, said that the time and place of the first trilateral summit had not. yet been decided. "I'll go where Jacques tells me to go and if Helmut invites

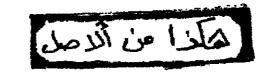
us, I'll accept his invitation," he

said. "I'd like to invite them too." Chirac promptly suggested the first meeting could be in Sverdlovsk, Mr Yeltsin's political power base in Siberia. While most summit participants have limited themselves

to urging the Council to do more to protect human rights. Mr Yeltsin has come to the summit to claim a central role for Russia in a new united Europe. Left out of the European

Union and Nato, he would like to see the Council play a larger role in European affairs alongside the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). "A Europe without Russia is no Europe." he said last week.

Recognised as a key figure in ending the Cold War, the Kremlin chief has a warm reception from summit host Mr



# 13/SOUTH AFRICA

# Bitter Afrikaners go north to set up **white-only territory**

A 'Boer Republic' is being established this weekend just 50 miles east of Pretoria. Its founders - 200 Afrikaner families – say it is their right to go it alone. The blacks they evicted disagree. Now, the beleaguered whites once again circle the wagon trains.

Wind and heavy drizzle batter the headstone in the middle of the cemetery. In Afrikaans, T and B Steyn have inscribed 'Here lies our dear Ella, born 12 January 1898, died 18 December 1901 in the concentration camp at Balmoral."

alition

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Around Ella's tiny grave are hundreds of others - mostly without stones - for the women and children who perished in the camp set up by the British during the Boer war just beyond the dirt road. More than 26,000 Afrikaners, mainly women and children, perished in such camps.

Apart from Ella, the bodies and names are largely unmatched and victims share the memorial engraved with their names at the entrance gate. The least fortunate are piled in mass graves at the far corner of the cemetery; history will never remember their names.

The concentration camps are etched on the consciousness of every Afrikaner, marking an episode of appalling victimisation of a people who would later become racial oppressors.

This weekend the graveyard finds itself at the heart of a new "Boer Republic" on land jointly purchased by 200 Afrikaner families from which black people will be banned. It will be governed by the old, austere, Calvinist principles which in the 19th century sent the fiercely independent Afrikaners trekking in wagon trains from the Cape into the wild interior to escape British

Since the coming of black majority rule in 1994, de-

posed Afrikaners have begun to trek again, heading north into Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique, setting up farms and Boer-only communities. At home, 600 have trekked into the northern Karoo to found Orania, whose patron saint is Hendrik Verwoerd, the reviled architect of apartheid, and where blacks are so unwel-

clean their own streets.

Balmoral is the most bizarre exercise in Afrikaner exclusivity so far. For these trekkers shareholders in the new Bocre Republick Kooperatief Beperk (Boer Republic Co-operative Ltd) - have barely left the mainstream to circle the wagons. The republic - 470 acres of farmland - lies just off a main motorway, 50 miles east of

It is apt that the graveyard should lie at its centre, for once again Afrikaners feel victimised and under attack. "The intention of this regime is to destroy us," said Andries Campher, 53, a towering farmer with rough, shovel-sized hands, and one of the founders. "We just want to survive financially as a group, with our own identity still

#### BY MARY **BRAID**

intact." The alternative, he insists, is annihilation.

Mr Campher complains about affirmative action for blacks and rising white unemployment. Christian values, he says, are being eroded in schools where educational standards are plummeting and Afrikaans is no longer spoken. To stop the rot Boers must build their own communities, businesses, homes and schools; and govern once again, albeit in a miniature kingdom.

Hopes have evaporated that the South African government

#### ERROR IN POPULATION

Three months ago South Africa was shocked to discover its population was only 38 million, four million less than prev riously thought. 🔾 were apparently confused by the previous regime's over-estimate of black fertility rates.

Of the 38 million, 77 per cent are classified black, 12 per cent white, 9 per cent coloured (mixed race) and 2 per cent Asian. Roughly 60 per cent - 2.6 million - of white South Africans are Afrikaners, though their language Afrikaans is the third most spoken in the country after Zulu (22 per cent) and Xhosa (18 per cent).

Afrikaans is also far more common than English as a second language yet English, must to the ire of Afrikaners, is increasingly being adopted as the official "neutral" language of new South Africa.

> will hand over land for a Volk- the political changes he was nevstaat. And provided you are white and Afrikaner the Balmoral "republic" offers democracy. Every investor owns the same share and has an equal say in government. Although not all of the 200 investors will live on the land, some will begin laying the foundations for new homes this weekend. The group

come that whites prefer to intends to buy more land later. And land is the thorny issue.

For the new republic has already evicted local black people. According to Mr Campher, farm workers employed by the previous owner were told that their labour was no longer needed. He claims they hung around for a while but eventually disappeared.

Blacks have told another story. One weeping woman says that the Boers conducted a campaign of terror and intimidation, forcing her off the land she was born on.

"That's rubbish," said Mr Campher. "They just moved on. I never spoke to them personally. They were nothing to me then and they are nothing to me now." New legislation which would have strengthened black workers' rights to tenure does not come into effect for another few months. In recent months farmers all over South Africa have been evicting blacks before the new laws are introduced. Mr Campher says he was well aware that the legislation was

The African National Congress says that the Boer Republic Co-operative has operated lawfully. But the Pan Africanist Congress says the ANC is failing to grasp the land issue and is allowing Afrikaners to grab land as if it was still

the 19th century. Fritz Meyer, another "republic" founder, insists that the Afrikaner families are simply setting up a business and that racism plays no part. But the founders clearly feel they are the true defenders of the Mesterday, They petithe British High Com-mission in Pretoria for artapology for the con-

and affection \* " Camp deaths. The vast majority of Afrikaners who are trying to find their place inside, not outside, the new South Africa are seen by some as traitors.

As Mr Campher conducted a tour of the cemetery, two middle-aged Afrikaners from nearby Witbank looked on. One rolled his eyes in disbelief. "This republic is just not viable," he said. His friend says the new South Africa is certainly tougher. Before

er out of work. He has just spent six months unemployed.

But he has an interesting take on the old wagon metaphor. "It will do no good if the oxen pulling the wagon go in opposite directions," he said. "All South Africans must pull together now." He shrugged, without a hint of bitterness.





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# Short leaps to defence of Rwanda

Clare Short has backed the Rwandan government, which has been criticised for human rights abuses. The British Cabinet minister said the country was the victim of genocide. Amelia French reports from Kigali.

Ms Short dismissed accusations that prisoners in Rwanda are held in appallingly overcrowded conditions, and claims of human rights abuses,

"You can't just denounce the fact that there's lots of people in prison. They're charged with genocide," Ms Short said. She was speaking during a visit yesterday to Gikondo prison, just outside the Rwandan capital, Kigali,

More than 120,000 people are believed to be held in prisons and makeshift jails

awaiting trial for the 1994 genocide in cused of being involved in the genocide? which members of the country's Hutu A doctor?" she said. He nodded. majority killed 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu jails, prisoners barely have room to move. pen in Rwanda?" she asked.

"We have to give support that will help them to get people to trial, and other ways of helping to rebuild the country, but pretending that genocide didn't happen and certainly turning on the government of Rwanda because there are too many people in prison is the international community once again not accepting its responsibilities. Denouncing Rwanda is international community was guilty of what happened in Rwanda.

During her tour, Ms Short spoke briefly to prisoners. Perched on raised shelves to create more space, inmates looked at the visitors with weary curiosity.

Ms Short questioned a gynaecologist in charge of Aids patients. Dr Cyridion Ukulikiyimfura was wearing the regulation pink prison uniform. "So you're ac-

"So let me ask you - you're an eduopponents to the former regime. In some cated man - why did the genocide hap-

> "It was bad education for the population since the Sixties. There were deep divisions within the society," Dr Ukulikiyimfura said, "It's not your size or the shape of your nose or whatever that allows to divide ourselves. We have the same language and the same culture."

Ms Short dismissed recent reports criticising the Rwandan army for killing una disgrace," she said. She said the whole armed civilians during operations against Hutu rebels in north-west Rwanda. A recent report by Amnesty Interna-

> tional alleged that 6,000 people, most of them unarmed civilians, were killed in Rwanda between January and August this year, mainly by the Rwandan army.

> Ms Short was on the second of a twoday visit to Rwanda. The money pledged to Rwanda is to be spent on education, justice and revenue collection.



Short: the whole international community is guilty over Rwanda

# Truce heralds peace in Papua New Guinea

island of Bougainville signed a truce yesterday but said a lasting agreement lay in the hands of political leaders.

"A momentum for peace is already under way," said the Prime Minister, Bill Skate, in a statement released in Port Moresby welcoming the signing of the peace

The so-called Burnham Truce was reached after 10 days of talks at the Burnham army camp, near New Zealand's South Island city of Christchurch.

The conflict, which has claimed thousands of lives and displaced many into care centres, began when landowners revolted in 1988 over damage caused by the huge Panguna copper mine and the royalties they received from it.

Bougainville has been a huge political headache for Papua New Guinea, and the former prime minister Sir Julius Chan this year provoked the country's biggest crisis since independence in 1975 by trying to to islanders, subject to appropriate clearbring in Anglo-South African mercenaries

Warring factions on the Papua New Guinea to put down the rebellion around the mine. The mine now closed, is owned by an arm of the Anglo-Australian giant Rio Tinto Ltd.

The interim truce agreement outlined immediate measures to stop fighting pend ing a formal meeting of leaders, hopefully by the end of January.

Signatories were representatives of the Papua New Guinea government, the Bougainville Transitional Government which it backs, the rebel Bougainville Interim Government and its associate the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, as well as Papua New Guinea security forces and

resistance commanders. The truce said its signatories agreed to what it called "immediate interim measures" including refraining from acts of

armed confrontation. The various factions also pledged to respect human rights, promote peace and reconciliation in the community and lift all restrictions to restore freedom of movement

#### Japan's youth told to shape up and get fit

Japan's Education Ministry had a message for the country's youth on the national sports day holiday - "shape up and get fit, you're falling behind.

According to a ministry survey, today's teenagers are less fit and athletic than their predecessors of a decade ago. The ministry said today's teens scored lower in physical fitness and athletic ability than those who took the test in 1986. The biggest decline was among 18-year-old boys and girls.

#### Los Angeles editor resigns

Shelby Coffey III resigned after nine years as editor of the Los Angeles Times and was replaced by managing editor Michael Parks in a makeover that included a major reorganisation of news and business operations. The changes were announced by the newspaper as part of a campaign by publisher Mark H Willes to boost circulation by 50 per cent to 1.5 million.

#### Surprise leader for Kazakhstan

Oil-rich Kazakhstan's market reforms were thrown into doubt vesterday by the surprise appointment of the state oil boss as prime minister. Diplomats and investors in Kazakhstan had already factored in the departure of its embattled reformist prime minister. Akezhan Kazhegeldin, But his replacement, Nurlan Balgimbayev, the head of state oil company Kazakhoil, took them

#### Church watches over Africa

African church leaders ended a six-day assembly in the Ethiopian capital, pledging to speak out against human rights abuses on the world's poorest continent. The clerics, meeting under the auspices of the All-Africa Council of Churches (AACC), and presided over by Nobel peace laureate, Desmond Tutu, of South Africa, gave notice to African leaders that their administrations would come under close scrutiny.

#### US has field day with corn crop

As the harvest gets into full swing, estimates for this year's United States corn crop rose slightly to 9.31 billion bushels - the thirdlargest crop in history, the Agriculture Department reported. The October corn projection is 44 million bushels higher than last month's forecast and 18 million bushels more than the 1996 crop. This year's crop, if realised, will trail only the 1992 and 1994 corn harvests in size.

### Clinton curbs tax agency power

**President Bill Clinton** yesterday announced plans to 'reinvent' the tax agency and rein in overzealous revenue collectors. As Mary Dejevsky reports, he was trying to quell a growing public outcry against the most feared and detested institution in the United States.

This was one of the very few occasions in Bill Clinton's presidency when he was late - and he knew it. Normally a consummate judge of the popular mood, he had spent the past two weeks seeming to protect the Internal revenue Service (IRS) from charges that it was callous, malicious and out of control. Yesterday, he said he was introducing a package of 200 measures to make the IRS more accountable and responsive to taxpayers' complaints.

The measures include the abolition of targets for the amount of tax to be collected by individual IRS offices, an extension of payment deadlines for people with health problems, the formation of local appeals boards, and a new board of trustees with a private sector majority to "ensure service every bit as good as in the private sector".

Mr Clinton said, somewhat defensively, that he believed this was "the right way" to reform the agency, his only allusion to calls for the abolition of the IRS following revelations of abuses at recent congressional hearings. The three-day hearings had produced a torrent of bitter complaints from small businesses and families about what they saw as vindictive and even unlawful treatment by the IRS.

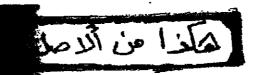
The IRS is one of the few institutions in the United States which can cow the most rightsconscious Americans. Those testifying at the hearings spoke of an agency with "unbridled power" that behaved as "judge, jury and executioner". Some broke down as they told of families ruined by "the one court in the land where you are guilty until proven innocent".

While acknowledging the justice of many complaints, Mr Clinton had initially defended the overall integrity of the service - a move that allowed exultant Republicans to call for the wholesale overhaul, if not abolition, of the IRS and the present tax code.

The changes announced by Mr Clinton yesterday - for a modest reform of the status quo coupled with enhanced taxpayers rights - were dismissed by Republicans as inadequate.

NATIVE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC COAST, Oncorhynchus Mykiss, the Steelhead Trout, migrates upstream from the sea to spawn. Sometimes reaching nearly 8,000ft above sea level. The sort of altitude where you'll also come across something else in its natural habitat: the Jeep Grand Cherokee. A Grand Cherokee will take you into the wildest terrain, whilst its anti lock discs are there to stop you (literally) bumping into any grizzlies. Along with a muscular 2.5 litre turbo diesel or 4.0 litre petrol engine, the Grand Cherokee Laredo's extensive





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elephon company vehicles trapped in a river of mud at Acapulco after the onslaught of Hurricane Pauline

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# Killer floods cause havoc in Acapulco

El Nino, the climatic phenomenon that distorts weather the world over, is reaping a bitter harvest in Mexico. Floods in Acapuico have killed over a hundred.

She disappeared as quickly as she had come but left Mexicans and foreign tourists in a state of shock. No one will forget the day Pauline came to Acapulco.

As the hurricane winds died to an eerie whisper yesterday, residents of the popular Pacific resort faced the gruesome task of trying to find the hodies of missing relatives among the hundreds of corpses recovered

after Thursday's disaster. Holding handkerchiefs over their noses, they walked between rows of deformed, floodbloated bodies, including several children in pyjamas or nightdresses, laid out on the concrete floor of the Acapulco municipal morgue.

Mexican officials confirmed at least 122 dead, mostly in Acapulco. Also badly hit were the rest of the state of Guerrero and the neighbouring state of Ozoraca. More than 250 were injured and dozens were still missing. One report spoke of three German tourists missing from a nudist beach resort at

Meteorologists warned that although Pauline had faded from a Category 3 hurricane to a mere tropical depression yesterday over southern Mexico, she could stage a revival farther north, closer to the US border, over the weekend.

Experts at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said the suddenness and unexpected fury of Pauline, as well as the speed with which the hurricane dissipated, appeared to be the result of the so-called "El Niño" (The Christ Child) weather phenomenon. Under the phenomenon, warm Pacific currents off the west coast of South America are pushing farther north than usual, changing weather patterns along the

"It's a normal hurricane season in the eastern Pacific. We've had 16 named storms, eight of which developed into hurricanes," said Frank Lepore, a National Hurricane Centre spokesman. "But typically, if they start off Mexico, they head west-north-west out into the open ocean. With the warmer waters, they are now lending to go north and northeast on to land, including the south-western United States."

That is what happened last month when Hurricane Linda - the most intense hurricane ever recorded, while it was over the eastern Pacific caused widespread flooding in h-west Arizona. Hurricane Nora also dumped unprecedented rainfalls on Arizona.

El Niño has also been blamed for recent floods in Peru, off whose coast the phenomenon originates, and Chile, where tens of thousands of people have lost their homes and floodwaters have brought a worrying upsurge in the virusspreading rat population.

The Hurricane Centre in Miami expressed surprise that El Niño, which had not been expected to reveal major effects until around Christmas, had shown itself so early. They said the phenomenon could be followed by the reverse effect dubbed La Niña (The Little

Girl) - as the warm currents that had moved north shift back southwards. That could bring serious drought to Mexico and the southern US, they

In Acapulco, a partying and gambling mecca for the Hollywood stars of the Forties and Fifties, and more recently a haven for Mexican politicians and millionaires, the effects of Hurricane Pauline served as a reminder of Mexico's wealth gap. The American-style highrise chain hotels along the beach emerged unscathed but for eroded beaches and flooded cellars, while the shanty towns above, on the 3,000-ft ridge behind the city, were devastated by landslides.

Mexican peasants from inland Guerrero or other states flock to Acapulco and build simple homes while looking for work as waiters or maids, or other jobs serving those who sip piña coladas in the hotels or night-clubs below.

Most of the dead were swept away, many while still in their wooden homes, as driving

#### BY PHIL **DAVISON**

rains turned normally dry river beds into raging torrents and mudslides. Boulders the size of cars were swept downhill, crushing homes. Horrified neighbours watched as one stone house plunged downhill as though it were a raft negotiating rapids. Bodies could be seen protruding from mud. arms outstretched as though they had been desperately trying to grab something solid.

We were asleep when the water came smashing through our living-room. We all got out alive except for my sister," Rafael Diaz Servin, a 35-yearold waiter, told a Reuters reporter as he stood over his sister Laura, covered by a sheet blue plastic, in the morgue.

Cars and bodies littered Acapulco Bay, ever known as the world's cleanest zone. The city had been trying to clean up the bay, traditionally polluted by direct sewage from the city. but most tourists preferred to stick to their seafront hotel swimming pools. In the newer tourist resort of Huatulco, the Sheraton hotel appeared to have lost its entire beach yesterday. And in Puerto Escondido, where surfers from around the world flock to ride a breaker known as "The Tube," beachfront restaurants and bars were swept away.

# Danger beetle sneaks in

A highly destructive pest of commercial timber woodiands has been imported into Britain using deception. Oliver Tickell reports on a beetle's threat to our forestry plantations.

A chance inspection at Dover docks has led to the discovery of Britain's worst ever infestation of spruce bark beetles.

"This is more than enough to start an outbreak in our woodlands," said Roddy Burgess, head of the Forestry Commission's plant health division.

The commission got on the beetle trail when inspecting a 20-tonne shipment of wood from the Czech Republic. The wood concealed within the packs still bad its bark on and was riddled with spruce bark beetles. The inspector noticed the rough-sawn wood had been misdeclared to customs as "planed timber", thus escaping the usual plant health inspection, as spruce

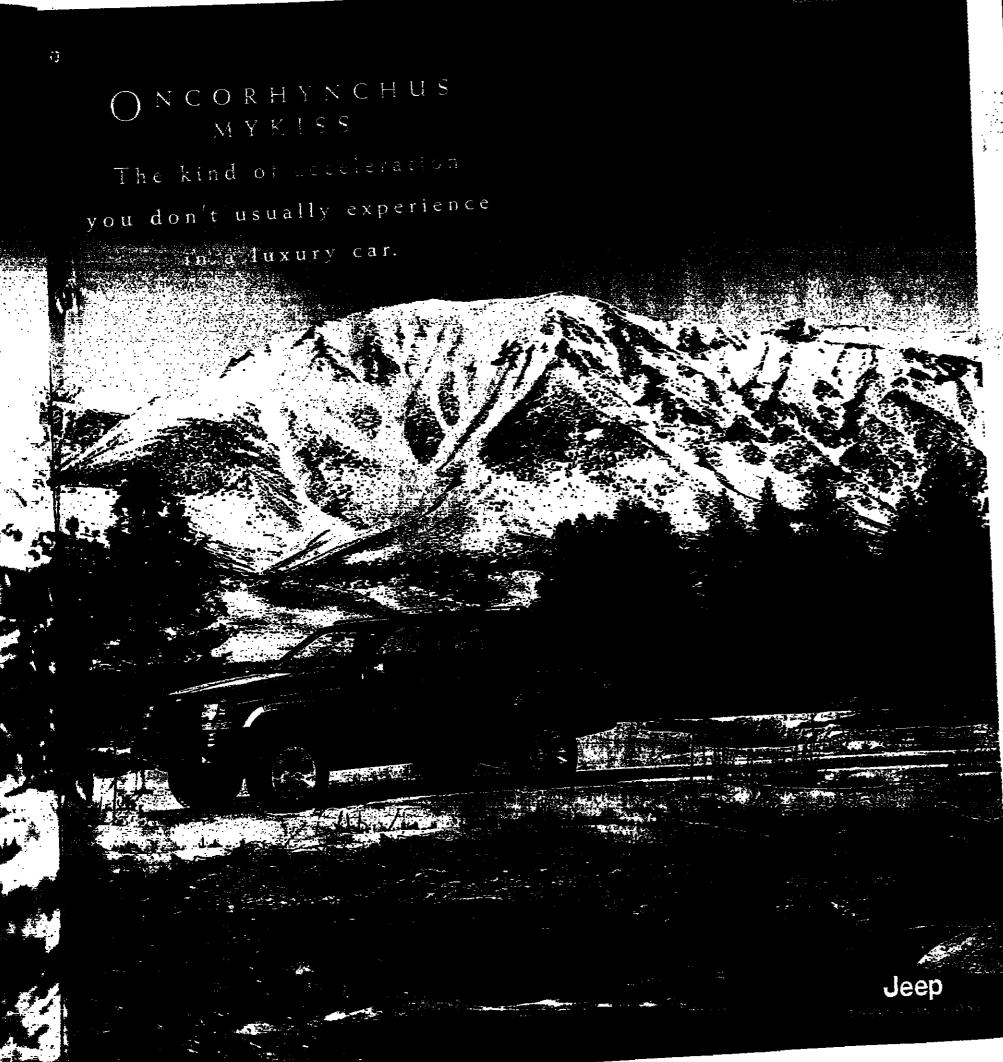
bark beetles live only under the bark, not in the wood. The commission then

traced five similar shipments to the West London Timber Company's yard in Woking, Surrey. On removing a piece of bark at random, it found 19 spruce bark beetles.

Mr Burgess said: "This is a straight case of deception. The timber was deliberately assembled so as to conceal the horrors inside ... It was only through sheer luck that this came to light."

The beetle is a major cause of tree death in Continental Europe, though British forests have so far escaped its ravages. But in August the Forestry Commission found beetles near British-grown logs at a paper mill in north Wales, suggesting that they might have established a British colony. Mr Burgess says it is unlikely that the north Wales and Woking incidents are connected.

The commission is now inspecting all timber imports from the Czech Republic and is installing beetle traps, using a powerful sex hormone attractant, in the Woking area to see whether any beetles have escaped.



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# Low-voltage tour plugs into Pakistan's gloomy mood

The Queen has used her visit to Pakistan to underline the links that exist with Britain. But will Britain continue to use to its diplomatic weight to push for a solution to the problem of

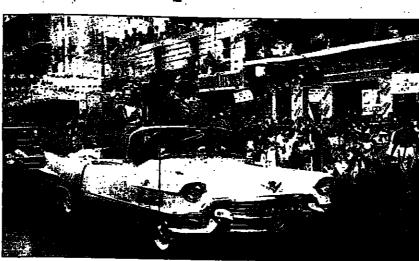
At the press conference in Islamabad to announce the details of the state visit to Pakistan, a local journalist suggested that the Queen might like to apologise for "a hundred years of British misrule". If the royal party scrutinise the Pakistani press, they will be gratified to find that this proposal has been treated with contempt.

An incandescent letter in the daily Dawn demands whether the Queen should apologise for "bequeathing to us, 1: the most distinguished civil service in the world; 2: irrigation and railway networks which were the envy of the world; 3: the rule of law..." An essay in the same paper anatomises the long falling off of Pakistan since the Queen's last visit, and quotes Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, praising the "genius" of the "Britishers".

In The News, another correspondent writes that "I am glad to hear that Her Majesty will not visit Swat" [where in 1961 she was the guest of the Wali of Swat]. "Swat's condition has become deplorable. Whoever comes to the place leaves feeling completely disgusted." It remains only for someone to write a column proposing that Pakistan should apologise to the Queen for making such a hash of things.

A lot of water has flown down the Indus since 1961. When the beautiful young queen glided through Karachi, standing in the back of a gleaming white Cadillac, President Ayub Khan, Pakistan's first military dictator, at her side, the streets were heaving with well-wishers. Today, her gloved, waving hand was glimpsed through the tinted glass of a Range Rover by the massed students of Karachi Public School, the brass band of Habib Public School, playing For "She's a Jolly Good Fellow" with more enthusiasm than precision, the Police Band ("Colonel Bogey") and small knots of idlers, drawn by the noise. Anglo-Pakistani intimacy persists, indeed has grown stronger (every second person you meet here has lived in Britain), but, as elsewhere, the monarchy has lost voltage.

During her visit, the Queen has watched Pakistan play South Africa at cricket - the



free entry to the ground in her honour unfortunately ended in a baton charge and tear gas - taken delivery of a gaudily painted model truck and an equally gaudy bedspread, and been invested by President Farook Leghari with Pakistan's highest award. She, in turn, invested the President with the Order of the Bath, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with the Order of St Michael and St George. Benazir Bhutto,

# BY PETER

**POPHAM** 

by contrast, got nothing but a handshake and a particularly warm smile. It was Ms Bhutto who last year, while still prime minister, invited the Queen to Pakistan. Since then, however, she has been deposed for misgovernment, lost an election by a landslide, and had bank accounts in Switzerland frozen on suspicion that they contain funds looted from the nation. Her appearance at the banquet to welcome the Oucen - and her announcement the same day that she will sue her chief accuser, Senator Saifu Rehman, in a foreign court - indicate that she plans to stand and fight.

The Queen used the occasion of her speech before both houses of the National Assembly Islamabad on Wednesday to scold Pakistan and India for their failure to get along. "We all know ... that animosity retards development, that development requires trust, that lack of trust closes off opportunities." she said. "Unfortunately,

true peace has been a stranger to South Asia \_ There are few things that would do more to unleash the region's potential than the lifting of the barriers between its two largest nations."

The word Kashmir did not figure in her speech - which surprised some here by its overtly political character - but in an obvious reference to the 50-year-old problem and the recent decision by the two nations to resume negotiations, she said: "It brings the friends of both countries only pleasure to see the commitment both have made this year to solve contentious issues through talks. Britain, as a friend of both, can only urge a new spirit of openness and understanding."

The big question in both countries surrounding the state visit is whether Britain has more on its mind than merely "urging". Last month in New York, the Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral believed he had secured, for the first time, United States consent to the notion that the Kashmir problem should be solved bilaterally. India has long been wary of what it regards as the Labour Party's propensity to side with Pakistan over Kashmir, conversely, Pakistan clearly hopes that the new Labour government will move off the fence in its direction. The continuing exchanges of fire across Kashmir's "Line of Control", which last week claimed 47 lives, could act as a goad for it to do so.

However, the British government's offer to use its "good offices" to resolve the dispute, made by Derek Patchett, minister in the Foreign Office, during a visit to the region in the spring, was turned down very flat by India. It is doubtful the Government will risk the good vibrations of a state visit to push the idea any harder.



Royal progress: The Queen meeting war hero Ali Haider Banghash, 80, in Islamabad this ek. Top left, crowds during the glittering 1961 tour Photographs: lan Jones/Hulton Getty

#### 'Britannia' floats into **future** controversy

Three weeks ago - The Independent revealed that royal yacht Britannia would not be refurbished or replaced Yesterday, the was confirmed officially by the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, But there is lingering unease over the ship's future

It is not the fact so much that Britannia will be the last royal yacht that concerns the Royal Family, they have accepted that for a while. But, according to senior officials, there is apprehension that this once-proud symbol of the monarchy could end up as a rusting museum or being

hired out for parties. The Government is adamant that it will not spend £60-S0m of public money on a new yacht. Nor is it prepared to spend 10m a year to keep the ship going in a partnership with private enterprise.

Instead, the Ministry of Defence is looking at options to use her for a range of services including corporate hospitality, a trade centre, and a floating museum at venues from her Clydeside birthplace to the millennium festival site at Greenwich in London.

The MoD is keen to stress that it has tightly vetted applications to prevent Britannia turning into a gin palace or a floating

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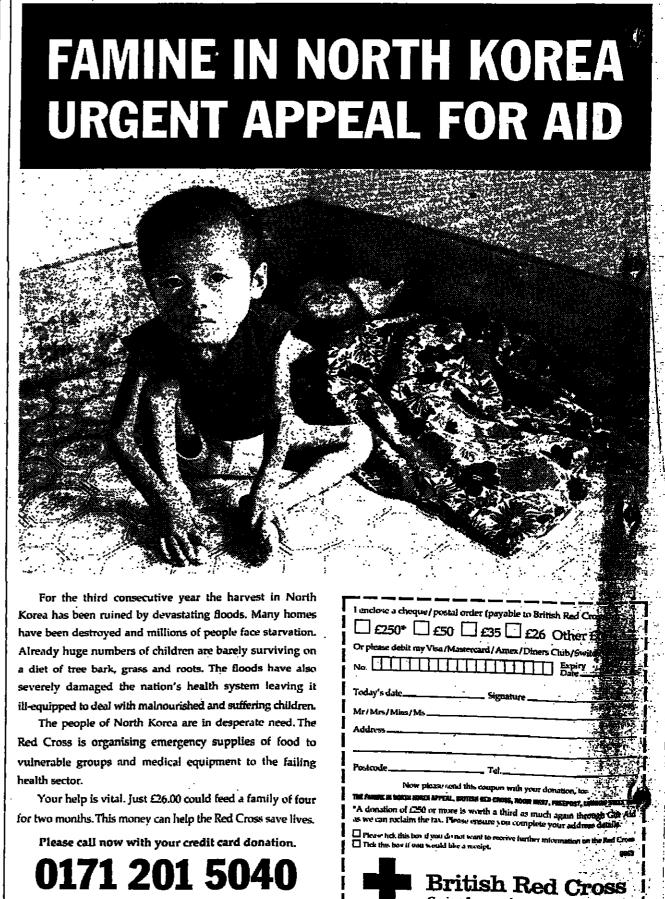
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But Buckingham Palace sources point out that the good intentions of this government may not guard against indignities in the future. They also say it will be impossible to maintain the yacht in its pristine condition without a lot of





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# Bumper harvest puts fair wind in the sails of port

Port producers in Portugal's Douro valley are smiling with relief at the prospect of a good vintage, which ends in the next few days. While Spanish sherry flounders, port is **Medding its fusty image** to win new enthusiasts. Elizabeth Nash treads the grapes to investigate a

success story.

Some 35 of us stood in a vast granite tank, thigh deep in pungent purple glop, rhythmically stamping the day's cut of grapes into a spongy fluid that oozed between our toes and clung to our limbs like primeval

Timing is vital for making port. You have less than 48 hours before the fermenting grape juice hits its optimum balance between alcohol and sugar, when you add brandy to stop e process, and settle the new port in vats. In that time the maximum colour and texture characteristic of Portugal's best known export must be extracted from the skins. And science has come up with no better method than the pressure of the human foot.

"Treading is still the best way of crushing the grapes while leaving the pips undamaged. It mixes up the skins with the juice and the body heat speeds the fermentation process," says Dominic Symington, sales director of his family's empire, that includes Graham's, Dow's and Warre's port. Only two camily firms remain in a trade founded by 19th century British merchants, now dominated by multinational conglomerates. "For top quality vintage port, there is no substitute for treading."

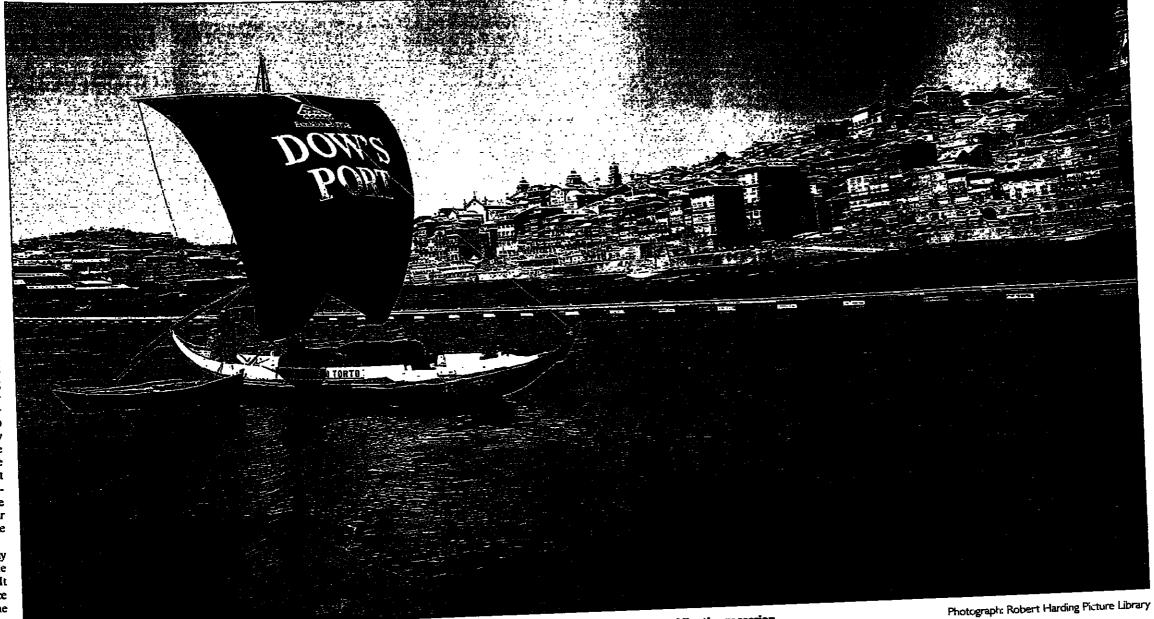
Vesuvio estate, at the eastern end of the Douro more than 100 miles up river from Porto, is the jewel in the Symingtons' crown, dedicated to the production of vintage port, which ns a fraction of the region's output. The vines are perched on steep ravines of slatey soil that you would think too barren to support a blade of grass. n conditions here are perfect or port grapes.

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"We are sheltered by mountains from the westerly winds and rain, so have hot dry summers that ripen the grapes and frosty winters that kill off diseases. The stony soil produces high sugar content and tough



Sold down the river: Traditions such as ferrying port barrels have given way to a buoyant industry that has survived the Nineties recession

skins," Mr Symington says. An early heatwave followed by frosts threatened disaster, but a fine late August has saved this year's vintage.

The sun beats down on a gang of pickers moving along vines laden with fruit. Some have been coming for years to Vesuvio every autumn for the three-week vintage, from a village down the valley. The women cut the bunches and drop them into skips which the men load on to a truck. Amid murmured conversation and occasional gentle singing, the pace seems leisurely. A golden eagle wheels and wheels high in the still air, before heading off in slow motion to the mountains of Spain.

But the women's clippers move swiftly, and they fill their buckets in a blink. The men balance the heavy skips with a makeshift strap and a fibrous

roll to protect their shoulders. They work from dawn to 6pm. stopping for breakfast and lunch. Then they tread from 8pm to 11pm. Sometimes they will be roused from their dormitories on the early 19th century estate to tread through the

By the time we clambered into the fragrant coze to join them, they had been at it for three hours, regimented by a gang leader shouting out the as if orchestrating oarsmen in a trireme. Those on the end tapped advancing knees with a stick to keep the lines straight as they moved evenly across the tank or "lagar". Faces were weary by now, weatherbeaten compared to their creamy bare legs.

Only in the last hour - of "liberdade", or freedom - did the treaders break ranks to plunge and dance at will. I was

taken into a lively churning twostep. The accordionist who traditionally provides the accompaniment had overslept and missed the truck rounding up the gang from their village. so we clapped and sang instead. In the old days the men (women used never to tread) were kept on their feet by copious supplies of alcohol. Today they are offered cups of grape-

juice and cigarettes. Vesuvio, like every port estate or "quinta", is limited to a strict quota it may produce, and for every one of the 120m botties Portugal sells each year, the equivalent of three must be kept in reserve. Governmentbacked regulatory bodies rein back any temptation to overproduce, so demand constantly outstrips supply, keeping prices and quality high.

Port producers learned the lesson of Spanish sherry, whose

overproduction prompted a catastrophic downward spiral of prices and quality. They realised that long-term prosperity lay in meticulous control of output year by year.

Next spring, barrels of this year's vintage will be taken to the ancient lodges in Porto's southern quarter of Vila Nova de Gaia, no longer by special boats piloted down river, but by

lorry. Porto may seem trapped in the last century, with its crumbling waterfront slums and its art-nouveau coffee houses that would make Charles Rennie Macintosh weep for joy, but the wine to which it gave its name is forg-

ing ahead to the millennium. "Business is going very well at the moment. We're going through a very successful peri-

od," Dominic Symington says. Breaking the stereotypes of gouty colonels and fusty Oxbridge colleges, nearly half Britain's port drinkers are under 44, and 47 per cent are women, he says. France remains the mass market for cheap port drunk chilled as an aperitif, but the big money is with the vintage quality sold overwhelmingly in Britain

and increasingly in the US. Port weathered the long Nineties recession with scarcely a blip - sales suffered more in the swinging Sixties - and economic revival is expected to encourage prosperous youngsters to pay the high price for the good stuff. The grape treaders of Vesuvio are likely to be plying their ancient trade for some years to come.

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### How to make it in a traditional, male world

Sophia Bergqvist was only 28 when she gave up a flourishing career as a business consultant in London to run a modest port-producing estate in Pinhao, in the Douro valley, that had been in her family for decades. "The vineyard, Quinta de

la Rosa, had been in the family since the beginning of the century, but went bankrupt in the Thirties. We continued to produce grapes, but sold them to the big port shippers. But in 1987 new rules were introduced which meant that a small estate like ours did not have to have a base in Vila Nova de Gaia, in Porto, so we decided to go it alone, growing and making our own port with our own label, like bordeaux from a French chateau. It was the fulfilment of a family dream."

Now 37 and with three small children, Sophia grins when she recalls those early days in 1988, as an Englishwoman with uncertain command of Portuguese, entering an overwhelmingly maledominated world of grand port dynasties. "I was terribly naive, I don't know how I had the guts."

But Sophia insists that being young and a woman works in her favour. "Port does appeal to younger people. I want to sweep away the dim gouty image and show that port has many faces." An initial capital injection

was provided by the sale of her father's successful pulp factory, and Portugal's entry into the European Community in 1986 opened the door to a raft of vital subsidies. The family invested £200,000 in gleaming new wine-making equipment and bought up steep terraces of land behind their eighteenth century house on the banks of the Douro to plant new vines.

My father never dreamed he'd be able even to keep La Rosa in the family, let alone run it at a profit. Our goal was to stop losing money so that we could keep the estate in the family without it being a constant drain on our resources. It took eight years before we could even think of making a profit."

But apart from 1993 ("which was disastrous for everyone"), Quinta de a Rosa has survived and flourished amid the buoyancy of the port sector as a whole. Sophia's brother Philip, 35, recently gave up his British management job to devote himself full-time to the business; her sister Juliet has just started a wine course in the United

Last year they produced 12,000 cases of port - a drop in the vat for the big players. But Sophia, who made successful pitches to the likes of Pont de la Tour and Quaglino's, is confident. "We're getting there." she says.

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# At the court of the once and future king

Snoo Wilson's 'HRH' catches up with Edward and Mrs Simpson in the Bahamas in the 1940s. A two-hander for Corin Redgrave and Amanda Donohoe, it takes up the tale where 'Always', the musical, all too suddenly left off.

The ex-king is dead, long live the ex-king! We've hardly drawn breath since conducting the funeral rites over Always and now here are the Duke of Windsor and Mrs Simpson experiencing a speedy theatrical resurrection in Snoo Wilson's HRH. This two-hander is an altogether more astringent and blackly stylish piece of work than that grovelling musical which, conveniently amnesiac about the Duke's Führer-fancying and hopes of making a crowned comeback in a Nazi Britain, despatched the lovebirds to a

#### BY PAUL **TAYLOR**

married future of unclouded happiness. HRH puts the record straight on that little fantasy. We meet up with the Windsors in 1943, when the Duke was Governor-General of the Bahamas. In the diplomatic pecking order, this is Siberia with add-on humidity. How it rankles with them, though precisely what higher posting a wartime govern-

ment could have given an ex-king with pro-Hitler sympathies is hard to say. The Bahamas gig affords them lots of leisure. though, to pick at the scab of a sevenyear marriage for which he had sacrificed a throne and she had, to all intents and purposes, sacrificed the right ever to divorce again.

The play is alive to the grotesque comedy of the situation (the little pornonursery games the fretful, slighted couple play, like squirreling Queen Mary's jewels in a place that would faze the most hardened Customs official). But it also shows that the undivine duo are in what might be called a tragic Windsor-knot. 839 4401). Booking to 22 Nov-

Distracting himself from the depths he's too frightened to face by playing George Formby tunes on his banjo, Corin Redgrave's damaged silly-ass Duke is like the little boy the couple never had.

Amanda Donohoe's Duchess pulling her features into various DIY facelift poses and employing diphthongs that make Loyd Grossman sound like Dolly Parton - doesn't look too sad at having only one baby around the house. Earlier this season, there was a show called Women on the Verge of HRT; the Duchess thought she was a woman on the verge of HRH. But, as more recent history demonstrates, the Palace likes to be sparing where those three letters are concerned. The petty snobbery of the Duchess is not overlooked here, but the play also brings home how her position as King-unmaker exposed her to being humiliated by yobs. You have only to recall the mob ugliness that erupted at the mere mention of Camilla Parker Bowles during that TV debate on the future of the monarchy to appreciate the dangers she must have faced.

The Duke's dim-wit dealings with shady businessmen in the Bahamas made those dangers worse. The play suggests that he colluded in a murder cover-up, causing an innocent man to be prosecuted so as to protect the real culprit, a property dealer who had helped him transfer huge amounts of currency to a Nazi-owned bank in Mexico. Quids in, then (or rather dollars), in the event of a German victory.

Given that the piece is a two-hander, this quite complicated story has to be relayed through references to a lot of offstage characters, which is a drawback. In Simon Callow's enjoyable production, the psychological advances of the narrow and intense focus on the couple aren't exploited as well as they were when an earlier version of HRH was mounted at Theatre Clwyd, Mold, three years ago. There, with the pair marooned on a mirrored disk in the middle of the audience. you got a whiff of a claustrophobic Sartrean hell. Here, the set is standardissue colonial, suitable for Maugham or Coward. This funny, elegantly baleful play needs something more abstract.

Playhouse Theatre, London WC2 (0171-



THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

### Divided by a common understanding

Irish pubs have opened across Europe in the last four years, from Barcelona to Berlin. The reason it's shocking is that, as Gerry Anderson pointed out last week in Gerry's Bar (R4, Fri). "the Irish pub", with its sawdust on the floor and strong men boiling over with animal spirits, is a fantasy.

Irishness itself is problematic national identity is rarely simple, but Ireland's is more hedged about with traps and qualifications than most. Gerry's Bar is one of two series concerned with those difficulties. The other is North and South (R4, Wed), in which the novelist Colm Toibin is trekking along and around the Irish horder. The four programmes were recorded in the winter of 1995/6, shortly before the Canary Wharf bomb ended the peace process; and Toibin was largely concerned with tracing the effects of peace, and the after-effects of conflict. So the programmes are full of hopeful images of the detritus of war: border posts torn down, barracks left empty, roads reopened, communities meeting one another after 20 years' separation. The optimism sometimes makes you wince (if not as often as the corny Oirish folk soundtrack does), and it would be nice to have some footnotes on what's going on now, in the second, less cheerful ceasefire: have the troops returned? Are the communities estranged again?

Borders are always a temptation to writers, zones full of resonance and metaphorical possibility, and Toibin is no ascetic. But beneath the poetic manner, the series has a hard core of fact - everything is observed, little is asserted – and a

A shocking statistic: over 1,200 tough-minded refusal to let anyone claim the moral high ground. True, there is a constart sense of the irrationality of the ragged line between North and South, which you could take to be evidence of Republican sympathies. But in this week's second programme, he consciously disdained any glamorising of the Republican tradition, quoting from Yeats: "We have fed our hearts on fantasy, and our heart's grown brutal on the fare." (That could also be the motto for The Playboy of the Western World, this week's Monday Play on Radio 4, the tale of a self-proclaimed murderer all but worshipped for his crime: Peter Kavanagh's production rightly emphasised the darkness of the underlying emotion over the comical absurdity of the situation.)

The outward bluntness o Gerry Anderson's delivery can ouflages an underlying hazy idealism. I'm one of Anderson's admirers, but still agnostic about his scripted talks - his natural twinkle sounds too studied. His habitual "We're all mad here" view of Ireland seems clumsy beside Toibin's grimmer appreciation of insanity, too; it doesn't leave much room for nuance. Yesterday's talk ended with him driving from the rustic paradise of Donegal back to Derry: the first thing he saw on arriving home was a news item about a young man hurt in a car crash, and stripped of wallet, watch and shoes by a mob. "Home, sweet home," Anderson concluded.

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It seemed an unimaginative contrast. Yet the first headline on the next news bulletin was about an Ulsterman who slit a boy's throat for wearing Celtic colours. Sometimes nuance is a luxury we can do without.

## Dark, brutal passion - and not a poker in sight

DANCE

#### Edward II Birmingham Hippodrome

Ballet doesn't have to carry a "U" certificate - as Kenneth MacMillan was ever at pains to demonstrate - and in making a ballet of the torrid life and sticky end of Edward II, David Bintley set out to create a dark, flavoursome, sugar-free entertainment. It was made in 1995 for Stuttgart Ballet, and with the help of two principals from that production (Sabrina Lenzi and the excellent Wolfgang Stollwitzer). Bintley has now re-Ballet, who gave its British premiere on Thursday.

Bintley's gift for storytelling is not infallible (remember Cyrano?) but in Edward II the narracing strings and angry drums zip along so that we can cut right to the chase, with none of the expository longueurs that so sti-



vived it for Birmingham Royal Oliver Hindle as the Grim Reaper in a stylish 'Edward II'

who and what they are up to. The curtain rises on a magnificent funeral cortege, looming pillars, cowled figures and rative pace and John McCabe's dense fog cerily lit by Peter Mumford's expressive lighting. The monks file off. Edward is crowned and immediately resumes his exhibarating tours en fle MacMillan's Maverling. With- Tuir with the mercurial Piers in 10 minutes we know who's Gaveston (Andrew Murphy).

His wife is less than thrilled and soon embarks on some steamy pair work of her own with Joseph Cipolla's king-making Mortimer, who is quite clearly A Bad Thing. He and his Barons initiate a civil war in their quest for more power and dominate the stage in testosterone-rich ensembles worthy of

Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Amanda Donohoe as Mrs Simpson, the not-so-gay divorcee

The historical narrative is intercut with the 14th-century morality tale Roman de Fuuvel. period. in which a donkey is made king. This is told by a motley crew, including a Fool who sports a large foam-rubber erection that will be familiar to anyone who has ever tried to construct a giraffe with pink modelling balloons.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW DAVID BENEDICT

by Jasper Conran, Sabrina Lenzi gets to model a succession of creations that had me dribbling into my programme. Never mind T-shirts: this ballet could take merchandising into an entirely different league. The ladies of the court wear plain black gowns crowned by a fantastical array of medieval funeral millinery ranging from wimples to distended mortar-boards.

Not all of Conran's costumes are this successful. The Barons have more studded leather codpieces than you can shake a stick at - if that's your idea of a good time. This heavy emphasis on leathers is reminiscent of the RSC in its late-Seventies biker

Much of the ballet's visual impact is thanks to Peter J Davison's mechanistically medieval sets. A high, wide window at the back slides open like a hangar door - a clever design that enlarges still further the Hippodrome's handsome stage. The

These costumes are designed opening reveals coronations. Sunny blue skies and advancing hattalions of blood- thirsty ravishing bias-cut devoré velvet Barons. It's a brutal ballet: Isabella slaps her nurse (the excellent Marion Tait), the nurse spits in Gaveston's face, Gaveston is anally raped by the Barons and the King is peed on by his guards before he endures the final, fatal humiliation. His assassin, Lightborne (Tony Norman Wright), is a skinhead who dances a strangely gentle pas de deux with his victim before a portcullis suddenly falls and a glowing brazier is wheeled on. Lighthorne tenderly places a black bag over the King's head before taking careful. and terrible, aim.

Photo: Nigel Norrington

Family entertainment it ain t. But it's a strong tale, told with conviction, danced with passion and staged with the greatest possible style. Definitely worth shelling out for a babysitter. To Tues (booking: 0121-622 7486); then on tour

THE FILM

Nil by Mouth

Actor Gary Oldman's makes his debut as

writer and director with a fierce and fatal-

istic family drama set on a run-down south

London housing estate, starring Ray Win-

stone as a violent minor villain married to

Adam Mars-Jones worried about the film's

balance of sympathics but praised it for earn-

ing "the great, if back-handed, compliment

of being powerful enough to argue with".

"A story that could easily have got out of

hand. An honourable film, as well as a sen-

sational one," cried The Guardian, "Startling

power and compassion," nodded The Times.

"There's no sermonising or sentimentalis-

ing ... Don't miss it." marvelled Time Out,

"Harrowingly brilliant performances ... it's

gruelling but compulsive. Steel yourself, but

see it," urged the Telegraph, "I can't fill the

vacuum with the slightest sympathy. Nil by

mouth maybe, everything by foul mouth."

snorted the Standard, "Full of the sort of per-

ple you would move to the country to avoid."

Cert 18, 120 mins, on general release

Kathy Burke.

Louise Levene

#### In the Eye on Monday: Dominic Dromgoole pays tribute to P.o. MacGregor, author of 'Snalle in the Grass' and a playwinght who sadly found his voice all too late.

Plus Pobert Hanks on Evans v Greening & Ball, or the breakfasttime battle for listeners between Virgin and Radio I



#### THE BALLET

#### Cinderella

Adventures in Motion Pictures present Prokofiev's ballet with Sarah Wildor and ex-Royal Ballet star Adam Cooper, directed and choreographed by Matthew Bourne.

Lez Brotherston designs. Piccadilly Theatre, London W1 (0171-369 1734) to Jan 10.

Long-time Bourne fan Louise Levene was disappointed, "Neither as dramatic nor as funny as most of his earlier work." "[Bourne] has one of the most dazzling theatrical imaginations in the business ... the one thing that's frustratingly lacking in the production is dance." agreed The Guardian, "As good as the notorious Swun Lake? No ... It will make a much better video than stage show," declared the Telegraph. "Lynn Seymour's hilariously tipsy stepmother totters like a parody of Patti LuPone in Sunset Boulevard ... deserves to he a popular success," smiled the Mail. "Unconvincing," sighed the FT. "A winning formula ... The entire cast is first-rate," sang The Times, "Complexity, subtlety and surprises," cheered the Standard.

Rehearsals were decimated by ill-health. It will undoubtedly deepen and strengthen.

#### THE TV SERIES A Dance to the Music of Time

Anthony Powell's 12-volume novel adapt-

ed by Hugh Whitemore into four two hour TV films (at a cost of £10m) with a Rolls-Royce cast led by Simon Russell Beale with Sir John Gielgud, Miranda Richardson and Alan Bennett plus all the usual suspects. Thursdays, 9pm, Channel 4.

Thomas Sutcliffe felt "the effect is rather like attending a reunion party at which you have no share in the common history .. everyone around you roars with laughter. leaving you mildly haffled (and mildly bored)". "A quickstep to the music of time which tramples not only on credibility but on humour." frowned the New Statesman. "Like walking into a *Brideshead Revisited* theme park - only less convincing," grumbled The Times. An excellent cast cannot make up for the lack of substance," yawned the Mail. "Perfectly faithful, which is more than you can say for most of the characters." declared The Guardian, "After two hours of this luscious production. I stumbled. blinking, back into the barsh reality of today." gloried the Telegraph.

The production values are high and the acting excellent but it's a compression too far.



shuddered the Mail. Already strewn with awards for acting and direction.



#### A WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

Something's rotten in the state of theatre, at least according to The Stage, which this week predicts a spate of financial ctises: a possible merger in Liverpool, possible closures elsewhere. Duncan Weldon, director of Chichester Festival Theatre, wants to shut up shop for half the year, with dark hints of closing altogether if more cash can't be found.

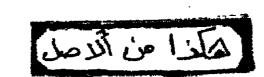
Talking to Weldon, I found him extremely downbeat, not just about Chichester but about the future of theatre in general. Young people, he says, are simply not going to the theatre. "I don't think it's that they can't afford it: they can afford to buy CDs. They just have other interests. We've got a serious illness in the theatre, and I don't know how you solve it." Apocalyptic words. But Weldon is not alone in prophesying the worst. Jude Kelly, director of West Yorkshire Playhouse, agrees that, for many in their late teens and early twenties, theatre simply isn't on the agenda: "It isn't rock 'n' roll."

But why? No real analysis has been done. How does one reconcile Weldon's diagnosis of an "illness in the theatre" with the huge numbers of youngsters going to Shopping and Fucking and Popcom in the West End, or the 88 per cent attendances, in all weathers, at Shakespeare's Globe. True, Mark Ravenhill's and Ben Elton's plays were soon seen as trendy, while the Globe remains a fascinating novelty. But there is another factor. Weldon is wrong, I believe, in excluding price from his analysis. I believe it weighs heavily with young people contemplating a night out. The Globe had standing and sitting at £5. And, when the BAC in south London introduced "pay what you can" nights, they too rapidly sold out. If West End producers really are serious about bringing in a new, younger audience, why don't they experiment by offering a good range of tickets at the same price as cinema seats, and maybe even free admission on Mondays, when theatres can be all too dismally empty?

What a pity the ruling council of the Royal Academy had to signal the demise of its mercurial exhibitions secretary, Norman Rosenthal. Censuring him for recent remarks they found "unacceptable" isn't too worrying. But what about that vote of confidence? As football managers down the ages. Michael Foot and various other victims of a vote of confidence by their employers or colleagues could tell him, Norman's fate is now well and truly sealed.



Culture secretary Chris Smith tells Music Week magazine what a fan he is of all the popular beat combos: "I enjoy listening to a Pulp tape almost as much as I enjoy listening. to a Mahler symphony." But asked if he has been to any gigs lately, he replies: "Not since I took over responsibility for the music industry, but that's partly because I haven't had any invitations. If anyone wants to invite me to things. I would be keen to go." There is another alternative, Chris, ground-breakingly radical as it must appear to anyone in the House of Commons. But one can alwaysindulge one's passions by broving a ticket.



NDEN

# Delight and disaster in an African diary

The wildlife of Africa still has the power to hold its human observers in thrall, but, says Rory Bremner, who has Reen visiting conservation projects in Tanzania and Kenya, ili-conceived and disconnected foreign aid projects threaten animals and human beings alike by causing avoidable ecological breakdown

As I left home again for Africa last month, my thoughts were of England. The country shifting beneath my feet, old certainties (the monarchy, the Union) everywhere called into question, me starting to get my head round my next set of programmes for rounding area, forcing the predator to move Channel 4, and my racehorse (or the leg of him I own) apparently now so lazy that Fr was having Sky TV plumbed into his stable so he could watch the Ryder Cun, with a direct line to the bookies should be fancy a few bob on Rocca to beat Tiger Woods

Such thoughts are left far behind as our Piper Aztec touches down on a dusty terracotta landing-strip in Southern Tanzania and Africa wraps us once again in its sweet, dry heat – and a cloud of dust.

It's a break from home; but it's also a mission, in a way. For the second time this year, I'm visiting projects supported by the wildlife conservation charity lusk litust. whose involvement ranges from funding equipment and assisting African community projects to aiding the relocation of rhin and other endangered species to Ignservancies across Kenya.

I first encountered wildlife during the 1995 England Cricket Tour to South Africa - not amongst the players, but many miles away in the game reserves of Londolozi and Phinda Nyala. There, at dusk one evening. time stood still as we waited silently. aware that we were not alone. In a thicket in front of us, the crackling of twigs betrayed the presence of an animal. After what seemed like an eternity, the branches parted and a lone elephant emerged and swayed sadly and silently on its way, utterly impervious to our presence. As we moved off tears were streaming down my cheeks.

Guides will tell you that these immense Leatures have a deep and compassionate gentleness. They will return many months later to the spot where a relative has died, flicking tenderly at the bones as if trying to nudge it back to life. A slightly longer tale tells of a drunk man falling into an alcoholic slumber and awaking to find himself covered in twigs, having been gently "buried" by an

elephant. Since that first experience, my curiosity about the animals and the people has become passion-It, and I've come to love the place. Days spent driving bumpily across plains and dusty paths in a Land

Rover, each bend promising an encounter with giraffe, impala, elephant or zebra; the seemingly inevitable bour lying awake in the middle of every night, dry-mouthed, heart pounding, listening to lion or hyena in the distance, both hoping and fearing they might come closer, the sheer weight of that night sky, heavy with a thousand stars and deafeningly silent except for a slap of fish or a flutter of birdwing breaking the still river's surface, or a single distant birdcry: the sound of fish-eagles and cicadas in the shimmering heat of an African af-

Flying between Tanzania and Kenya from the Serengeti to the Mara, say - is a hassle. You have to fly to a border point and clear customs crossing into Kenya to clear customs again and head back into the bush. Such travel may broaden the mind; it certainly lengthens the queues.

As we arrive at Kilimanjaro airport there are two other planes on the tarmac. Amongst the five people boarding the Air Tanzania jet is one white man. Tall, with a blond mane and a shambling gait. Bet it's someone I know, I joke to myself. As he

half-turns to climb the steps I see his face. Bloody hell, it's Martin Clunes. For some reason I keep bumping into him in Dean Street, in Soho, but Kilimanjaro airport on a quiet Sunday morning is stretching coincidence a little further. As it happens he's been filming the story of Nina the elephant, relocated through the auspices of the Born Free Foundation from a lonely zoo life to Mkomazi reserve.

the secret life of animals and plants: how the whistling thorn is inhabited by ants who emerge if the tree is being eaten to bite the predator, how other acacias first grew thorns to deter giraffe from eating them, and now produce an unpalatable tannin if a thick-tongued animal begins to munch away; not only that - this reaction is communicated to all other trees in the suroff to another part of the bush.

keep baboons out of your camp, you should place a plastic snake in a bag near where they play: their curiosity will thus be rewarded with a nasty shock.

vo park in Kenya and found the bag attracted the attentions of a vervet monkey, who opened it, looked inside and promptly fainted. Clambering back onto its feet, it had another look - and promptly faint-

Falklands penguins, who were so tascinated by aircraft during the war that they would longingly watch the planes as they flew directly over their heads, causing the unfortunate creatures to topple straight over backwards with a slushy thud. Unable to right themselves ("aw, bloody, hell, I've gone again ..."), they would have to wait for an army patrol whose job it was to return penguins to the upright position.

The very first morning in Tanzania presents a rare sighting. Drawn by a sudden cloud of dust in the distance, we find a herd of buffalo bolding two lionesses at bay. As we watch a buffalo is brought down. To all intents and purposes it's dead meat. But no. Mounting a final show of defiance, the buffalo charge the lions again, causing them to retreat. Amazingly, after half a minute of this stand-off, the stricken buffalo clambers to its feet and rejoins the herd. Lions paddyfield development at Madibira,



The writer with Tana the cheater in Kenya

mothers in the shade.

There is no doubt that camping out in the bush attracts a particular type of person. Overflying Ruaha in the Tusk plane, looking for poachers, we spotted a Landrover and tent; on landing at dusk, we found a young white couple with two very small kids sitting quite happily by their tent in the darkness, listening for the leopard prowling around a hundred yards away. No minibar, no room service, no executive trouser-press, nothing. Tsk!

Amongst these bush people are wildlife film-maker Simon Trevor and sculptor Robert Glen, whose magnificent installation of mustangs dominates the a plaza in Dallas. Glen lives in a tent a few hundred yards from the tent of his pupil and partner, artist Susan Stolberger, and 30 minutes drive into the bush from the near-

Each time I return I learn more about

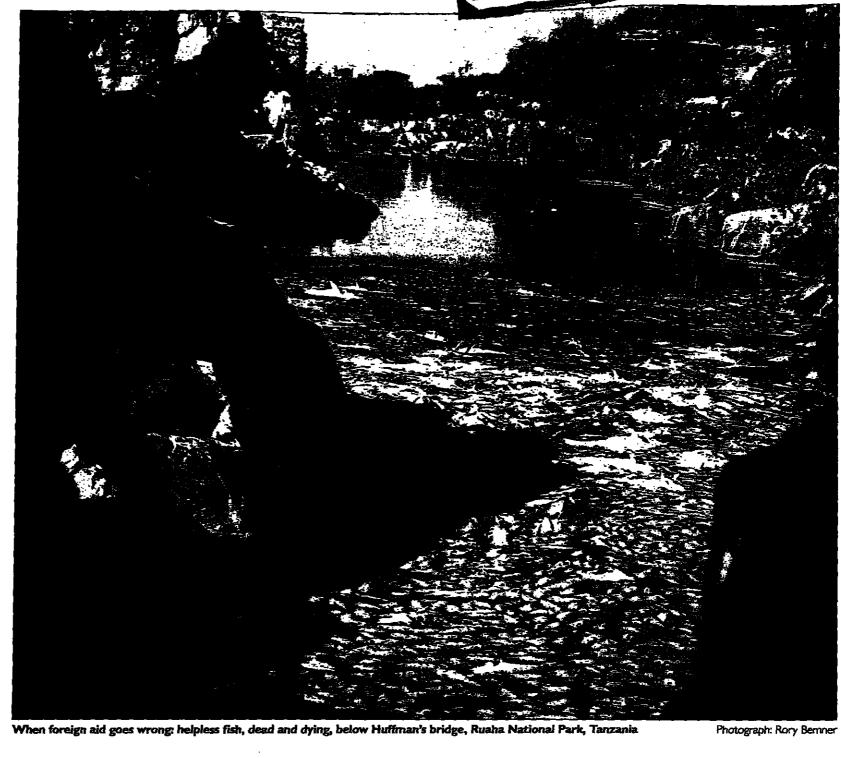
One piece of bush lore suggests that to

A friend tried this at his camp in the Isa-

The story reminded me of the tale of

0 Buffalo 1, and as John Motson might say, no, as he undoubtedly would say, you don't see that very often, Desmond. The lionesses wander off, and from a little further away we see three small creatures bound towards them: cubs, stumbly-pawed, tumbling and frolicking before nestling against their

Now the stinking pool is a sight that



est camp. There is a small ranger post which they fund a mile or so away, but apart from that, nothing beside remains.

As the stars come out on the first night in camp, to be joined by a glorious rising full moon, we listen to stories of those who live here. Dismissive of the "two-year wonders" who come to Dar es Salaam, work for a western company and return home having learnt little and understood less, Geoffrey Fox is a 38-year wonder with a lodge camp in Ruaha National Park. He will tell you about tea-growing and bush lore, the old days and the new challenges. And still, as he did on our first morning, walk slap into an elephant while walking sleepily to breakfast, blinded by the low ear-

This year his story is both a tragedy and

The Ruaha river, the life-blood of Southern Tanzania, is drying up in the middle of the dry season-for the fourth year running (or indeed not running). And, what's more, it's happening a month earlier every year.

Poor rains are partly to blame, but the most threatening cause lies upriver, where foreign-aid money is following up the creation of two buge rice-field developments in the Ruaha's catchment area with a third based on a feasibility pro-

ject done years ago.
The river below - and the wildlife living in the Ruaha National Park depend an a swamp in the river's catchment area. The swamp acts as a natural dam. In the rainy season it absorbs water

like a sponge and helps prevent flooding; in the dry season it gradually releases it to prevent the river drying up. As water is diverted for the rice field project. the swamp has dried out

and become compacted by up to 1.5 million grazing cattle. The result is a natural catastrophe that has to be seen to be be-

lieved. Flash floods in rainy season and, last month, long before the next rains are due; the pitiful sight of hippo and crocodiles crowded in stagnant pools, while a few yards upstream hundreds of dead fish lie rotting on the surface. Countless others fight vainly for air, flapping around, open-mouthed and upside-down.

These - imagine it - were the pools where the Fox children would fish 20 years ago, catching tiger-fish weighing up to 15 pounds, retrieved by whichever brother's turn it was (usually the youngest) to brave

The site is no stranger to tragedy: in the mid-50s a timber merchant called Carl Hussman built a bridge at the spot and was so pleased with the result that he immediately drove off the side of it and drowned. His death is remembered sadly by the locals, rather less so by the crocodiles to whose diet he made a welcome addition. (Unlike Hussman, they often live beyond

should shame those responsible for the Madibira rice field project.

irony that may yet save the river and its ecosystem; For downstream are the Mtera and Kidatu hydroelectric dams, which provide 80 per cent of Dar es Salaam's electricity. Already the power cuts have started in that city and huge generators have

had to be bought. Thus foreign aid money finances the rice naddy project upstream while crippling the (foreign aid financed) hydro project downstream. It is a crisis conservationists in Ru-

But there is a further twist, an economic aha are desperate to prevent, quite literally, come hell or high water.

But the swamp tragedy is a metaphor

for African politics: for everyone you

meet who tells you one story, you will meet someone the next day who contradicts or ridicules it. In a continent whose main currency is rumour, your brain soon becomes saturated. What may be a flash flood of information and gossip at lower level soon dries to a trickle higher up as armies

of bureaucrats grind out their patch, leaving dust and confusion in their wake.

But this is Africa. Returning through the fumes and the bustle of Nairobi, I reflect on the contrasts and ironies that frustrate and bewitch me: breathtaking beauty and pitiful squalor, Man and Nature, life and death. I know I'll be back. And as I observe Messrs Blair and Hague in their natural habitat, I'll think of snakes and baboons, lion and buffalo ... and Martin Clunes.





EDITOR ANDREW MARR DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARF, **LONDON E14 5DL** TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Let's welcome the Tories to the modern world. They might not like it - "the world that is" as Michael Portillo so colourfully put it - but it seems to be the only one we have. It's where the votes, the problems, the political opportunities are. It is the same world-that-is to which Labour painfully had to reintroduce itself. There may be pockets of Surrey, Herts and Bucks or even function rooms in Blackpool that you can pretend are forever England, your England, but they are too small a political base for the Tories. If they are ever going to grow back to potency they needed to make a leap out of the ghettos of intolerance this week. And, Norman Tebbit notwithstanding, they just about did. This is good news for Britain: we need a plural system, and that means, we need

William Hague's speech yesterday was pretty potboiling stuff, addressed to the tribe rather than the country. Besides, the leader's speech was overshadowed by Michael Portillo's démarche on the conference fringe. He is too resourceful and ambitious a politician to have stayed away for long but the manner of his return was dramatic. Personal humiliation of the kind he suffered in the early hours of May 2nd is clearly good for the soul. He took centre stage with an extraordinary volte-face. The queen (Maggie and all her works) is dead. Long live the (liberal, tolerant, compassionate) king. Why, next he may be heard offering a prayer for Jacques Santer.

Though Norman Tebbit rarely shows much Christian charity, he would presumably allow that his prized (mono-) cultural inheritance includes the New Testament. One of its most teasing stories, to non-believers and believers alike, is that of the prodigal son. This week the Conservatives came back to the fold, and repented. There they had been for all those years, boozing with ideologues, stripping down to their economically liberal underwear. They were indeed crazy years. During them Lady Thatcher and John Major attempted to defend a Toryism that had become an unstable permissive in matters of business but morally censorious of choice in matters of sex, child-rearing and household formation. It was not the creed of modern Britons around them.

This week reality dawned - or at least a glimmering of consistency. No one quite had the courage to point out that liberalising changes in attitude and social practice occurred while Mrs Thatcher was on watch, that she is "responsible" (in so far as politicians have anything to do with social change). But at least the Tories now



recognise what Michael Portillo coyly called the "new norms" are here to stay. Gays will not go back into the closet. Women will not be driven out of jobs nor will they relinquish their freedom to choose whether and with whom they have children. William Hague came near to accepting that freedom is indivisible. If you value the freedom of consumers, of patients and parents, you must also prize - however much you might regret the consequences - their freedom to divorce or set up with a same-sex partner.

All this amounts to heroic redirection. Historically Conservatism prospered by resisting change, in postulating ideal types of behaviour. Often it was hypocrisy on stilts. Aristocrat Tories condemned in the working class behaviour they applauded in their drawing rooms. Tory MPs were often the last people to observe the precepts they tried to legislate for others. Lately, the Tories have made themselves into the party of an anachronistic definition of the family. This has meant they became social whingers, constantly complaining that people kept making choices they don't like. (These people of course included ministers, their ex-mistresses and prime minister's children, which made the Tory message all the more unintelligible.) William Hague himself still feels the need to bow his knee to the approved form of matrimony but, intellectually and politically, he sees how his party had driven up a cul-de-sac. It is now on its way back down. And he (we assume) enjoyed some sex before marriage in Blackpool this week.

But this will be a slow and difficult political conversion. Listening to Mr Hague's speech was to hear the grating sound of a man trying to play two ends against the middle. This was a leader prepared only up to a point to beckon his people back to the middle ground - he certainly made free with the tribe's totems and tokens. So we had compassion and tolerance - code for welcoming gays - but also a paear of praise to the "traditional family". Mr Hague wants more Tory women MPs, but would not forego a gratuitous assault on a Labour minister, Harriet Harman, based largely on her gender. Mr Hague lauds free trade but within a few sentences aligns himself with hard-line nationalism. the kind that wants protection. Mr Hague, in other words, has not yet entirely abandoned the shibboleths he needs to shed.

And yet the Conservatives deserve half a round of applause - by which we mean not the sound of one hand clapping, but two hands clapping, slowly. They really did advance this week. What next? Imagine a line-up at Brighton in 1998 of young men who had doffed their pinstripes and, some of them, come out; of sassy go-ahead career women ... That would start to look like a Tory party capable of giving New Labour a run for its money. We'd like to see it happen.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Greener than thou

Sir: It is good that the Foreign Office now treats impending climate change and sea-level rise seriously. ("The paradise isles on the edge of disaster", 10 October), after decades of indifference to global environmental crises, such as tropical deforestation, over-fishing and species extinction.

However, the UK is in danger of losing influence over other industrial nations as its pronouncements on their responsibility to cut greenhouse gas emissions take on an unattractive "holier than thou" tone. The exhortation of the Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett that Australia, Japan and the USA must agree tough reduction targets at the crucial climate change summit in Kyoto in eight weeks time may be right, but it would carry far more weight if the Government spent less time trumpeting its own (welcome) carbon dioxide reduction target of 20 per cent from 1990 levels by 2010 and started implementing domestic programmes to reach that target.

There are a number of initiatives that must be undertaken in Britain, which would bring definite social and economic benefits, and yet none featured. in either Labour's first Queen's Speech or its first Budget.

Transport is responsible for over a fifth of carbon dioxide pollution, and emissions are rising rapidly as traffic levels soar. Why, then, no legislation along the lines of the Road Traffic Reduction Bill, drafted by Friends of the Earth, the Green Party and Plaid Cymru, and sponsored by Cynog Dafis MP? Why no tougher energy-efficiency standards, for buildings as well as vehicles?

A nationwide home energy conservation programme is an essential prerequisite for lowering carbon emissions. And it would help eradicate the scandal of fuel poverty in this country, suffered by 15 million people, prevent some 30,000 people from dying every year because they are cold and damp as their homes leak energy and waste warmth, while creating between 25,000 and 50,000 jobs. Why was the windfall tax not used to kickstart such investment?

The long-term funds for such a programme, for building up a modern public transport network and for developing clean renewable energy supplies such as offshore wind, wave and solar power, can easily be found. End company car, and free fuel and parking, subsidies worth £550m a year, along with the £1.5bn tax breaks given to oil companies annually to find

more oil. Above all, introduce a graduated carbon tax across the European Union so that the dirtiest fuels are taxed the most. and the cleanest the least, and commensurately reduce taxes on labour. Not only would carbon emissions fall, but so would the price of employment, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs across the EU.

Why also does the Treasury resist ending the farcical anomaly whereby energy-saving materials are VAT taxed at 17.5 per cent whereas energy use is taxed at 5 per cent?

tions about their obvious failings is no way to prepare for Kyoto. CHARLES SECRETT Director Friends of the Earth

London N1

Sir: Bill Quantrill (letter, 7 October) is right that a tropical timber boycott may not be the best choice for the environment and that we should try to ensure that timber comes from wellmanaged sources.

However there is still much forest management that fails to meet even the most basic environmental and social criteria. The not-for-profit organisation the Forest Stewardship Council now offers an international scheme for ensuring forest management meets high standards and provides an easily recognised tick-tree logo for the products. The FSC provides the perfect choice for people who want reassurance that they can buy wood products without contributing to the sort of shocking disasters that we can now observe in Indonesia. STEVE HOWARD

Senior Forests Officer Godalming, Surrey

#### Royal technophobia

Sir. On your centre pages (9 October) you publish a major article by Rupert Cornwell, a six-column cartoon and three trenchant letters all condemning the remarks of Norman Tebbit on the subject of Britain's multi-ethnicity. Well done!

Immediately above stands your leading article, in which you attack the Queen for inflexibility and a lack of "democratic understanding for what you describe as a self-deprecating aside admitting her resistance to information technology. I should have thought that

Her Majesty's extremely positive endorsement of the multiethnic, multi-faith character of this country - which, by happy coincidence was reported on the same day as Norman Tebbit's regrettable outburst - demonstrates both her flexibility and her responsiveness to the mood of modern society. I also believe that the Queen's views on the subject of race-relations are very much more interesting to most of her subjects than her views on information technol-

#### JENNY BANKS

Sir: Your leader of 9 October is wrong in stating that Queen Mary never used a telephone. As she herself recorded, the King, in Loudon, kept her, in Balmoral, fully informed by telephone about the government crisis of 1931. You also omitted to mention that the Princess Royal's comments about the use of computers in



The Australian kangaroo - culled by trained shooters to spare it a worse death

#### Kangaroo meat

Sir: In case your readers gain a false impression about the killing of kangaroos and the processing "Ostrich, kangaroo and other extober) it is important to point out that the sale of kangaroo meat roos were culled from a popu-

schools were endorsed by none

not, as you suggest, run in the

Royal Family. Queen Victoria.

in contrast to her Prime Minis-

ter, Melbourne, was an enthu-

siast for the newly invented

passenger railway; her husband,

Albert, probably did more than

any single person last century to

promote innovation; and her el-

dest son, the Prince of Wales,

was quick to endorse the mo-

tor car. The Queen's father, lat-

er George VI, learned to fly in

1919, a time when it was a high-

The Constitutional Monarchy

Sir: Jojo Moyes, reporting the

Queen's speech to Pakistan's

parliament (9 October), sug-

gests that the Queen and many

others of the not so young feel

bewildered and even fright-

ened by the fast-changing world

a healthy scepticism towards all

things new and a desire a prop-

er evaluation and discussion of

new ideas and new technologies

before adopting them. Infor-

mation technology is being in-

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and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity,

Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

The point is that we harbour

ly risky business.

Secretary

**Association** 

we live in.

DONALD FOREMAN

Technophobia certainly does

other than Bill Gates.

is a by-product of Australia's necessary annual cull.

Because of the dramatic increase in the kangaroo population we need to control their of their meat from your report numbers to protect the fragile environment and the many othotic meats off the menu" (9 Oc- er native species it sustains. Last year 3.1 million kanga-

troduced simply because it is

there and because we must

make sure we are not left out.

To this day there has been no

evaluation of the costs and

Why should I spend the re-

sources on making my home

into a local area network (re-

ported on the same page) to be

able to e-mail fridge@home to

see I need milk when I can just

open the door and ascertain that

fact. The possibility is absolutely

fascinating, but the costs seem

to grossly outweigh any bene-

Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Circumcision victims

Sir: It does seem ironic that the

foreskins of newly circumcised

boys are being harvested by a

commercial company and

processed to provide skin banks

for replacement surgery ("Sci-

entists plan market in spare

body parts", 8 October), while

at the same time a growing band

of unhappy men are seeking to

restore the foreskins which

were removed without their

why circumcision, which, as the

medical profession admits, has

no medical justification, should

It has always been a mystery

consent in infancy.

K V MOLLER

lation of more than 50 million of the four main species. In addition to protecting the environment, the cull saves millions

of kangaroos from dying from thirst and starvation during Australia's frequent droughts. The government cull is car-

ried out by professional shooters who are licensed and must London WC2

still be so prevalent. I wonder

how the unwilling donors will

comply with strict laws. The processing of the meat is subject to controls which are as rigorous and strictly policed as any of the more traditional meat industries in Australia

**NEIL BLEWETT** High Commissioner

Australian High Commission

feel about it when they are old enough to know what has happened? Does the benefit to those with foot ulcers justify the mutilation of small boys? Fail candidates.

Flitwick, Bedfordshire People vs parties

ALEX MACFIE

#### Sir. Lynne Armstrong (Letters,

R B WARBURTON

7 October) writes that the German electoral system, the Additional Member System, "can combine proportionality ... with the constituency link".

This is very seductive in theory, but in practice it does not work. The regional lists tend to dilute the constituency link of the constituency MPs in two ways. The constituencies would have to be much larger under AMS, in Germany often having as many as 300,000 voters each. Also, many constituency MPs are also on a regional list. Michael Portillo and (even worse) Neil Hamilton could have got back into Parliament through the back door created by the regional lists. It would become impossible for the electorate to kick out any MP whom

the party wanted in Parliament. The system which most effectively combines proportionality with the constituency link is the system used in Ireland, the Single Transferable Vote, Constituents can choose which MP in a multi-member constituency they prefer to represent them. MPs, and candidates from the same party are in competition with each other for the same votes. In the last four Irish general elections, twothirds of the TDs (MPs) from the Fianna Fail party who lost their seats lost to other Fianna

It is very difficult for the parties to control who gets elected, as there are no safe seats. The people of Tatton would not even have needed Martin Bell to remove Neil Hamilton - he would have been defeated by other Tory candidates in the same area.

Abergavenny, Gwent

#### Lecture by Rowse

Sir: I am sure there are many people with memories of A L Rowse (obituary, 6 October, letter. 9 October).

My encounter with him occurred at Petworth House in the early Seventies. My wife and I spotted him gazing earnestly at a Fuseli painting. Being a fellow Cornishman, I introduced myself. He launched (I swear I saw a how wave) into a very loud and lengthy lecture on the wonders of Fuseli, interspersed with naughty snippets about Lord Egremont.

Within five minutes the fair. ly crowded room was emplied: even my wife disloyally snuck off. I was left stranded with him for a whole hour. I still have not quite recovered. Brighton, East Sussex

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

changing news agenda - the extent to which "new" news deserved to elbow its way to the level of "old" news, of the politics-plus-diplomacy sort. ally subtle and thoughtful.

Janey Huber, a former eye surgeon from Cambridge, wrote in favour of the new agenda: "There was a time when I read newspapers and dle-aged white men, read only articles written by middle-aged white men, about the power struggles of middleaged men, white and otherwise." There is a gender Traditional news is masculine and about men in power. The kind of news I want to read is about things that affect me: the survival of the planet, women's success or failure in Equal Opportunities cases, the things I should feed my children, what's going on in Europe, what will hit us next from the US."

Another reader. Clare Prout from London, agreed -"I'd like to support your idea that environmental and wider social issues are just as much news as the sleeping mumblings in the House of Lords. In many ways, these less 'hard' items are proto-news."

Dr Tony Daniels from Cleveland, while applauding the "clean new layout" of the paper, suggested that we are than "a daily news magazine" and adds: "You are heavily biased to the arts, fashion and the south-east of England in your 'news' coverage. Science and technolo-

gy rarely get a look-in." Well, we are upping the science coverage - today's page three being an example - but the "magazine" criticism came from other readers too. Colin Parker from Tewks-

Last week in this space I bury, for example, said he reasked for thoughts about the garded the news items as being "too 'magaziney', if I can invent such a word ... I get the about science, culture, health, impression that some stories the environment and so on, are saved for a day when a page can be filled with stories that loosely come under the same heading." Quite a fel. The letters back were gener- of you agree with Mr Parker and Dr Daniels. Another London reader,

Nicholas Maxwell, put the opposing view: "By presenting the information the way you have chosen, you break saw only photographs of mid-down an unhelpful, and possibly unreal, division between hard and soft stories. The grouping of pieces "gives me what I need to make the links between different but related stories and makes me think question here, she argues: more about the pieces rather than just reading them and

That, of course, is exact. the intention of the new paper, even if we don't always succeed. The editorial and commercial dilemma is how to balance the traditional agenda with a grouping and choice of stories that tease out the new agenda while not losing too many readers on the way. If there is a pattern, it is that the offended readers tend to be older and the enthusiasts younger. E-mails, interestingly, are running more heavily "pro" than bandwritten letters.

When The Guardian R. launched in 1988, it managed to lose 100,000 sales in a year. Amiable though our shareholders are, I rather becoming less a newspaper suspect that I would not be permitted to do quite that badly - and so far (phew). sales are well above, not below, our base figures before the new paper. But it is of course easier to lose readers than to win new ones, partioularly since we don't have sugar-daddy money. So if you are enjoying the paper, tell a

Andrew Most

PHI

#### QUOTE UNQUOTE

I'm going to reinvigorate this party and I'm not going to be derailed from it by criticism from armchair generals -William Hague, Conservative leader

Whatever happened to serious political thought? Surely it is not confined to old fogeys and matrons in sensible shoes -Lord Tebbit, Conservative peer

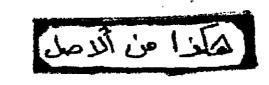
The Tory Parliamentary Party had a collective nervous breakdown. There is no other way of describing it - Kenneth Clarke, ex-chancellor, explaining defeat

I couldn't cope with the fans any more. I felt that their adulation was misplaced. They were spending money on expensive performances when they should have been buying clothes for their backs. It made me uneasy - Dame Joan

Sutherland, operatic singer Step by step Unionists are being conditioned to become ac 25 customed to "Irishness" rather than "Britishness" to prepare them for their intended destination - Peter Robinson, deputy

leader of the Democratic Unionist Party Half of me is impulsive, half of me is analytical. Part of me is evil, part of me is good. It is a struggle every day. Maybe it's just me - Michael Douglas, actor

Every Government gets unpopular. When they turn on Tony : 'ar it will be unbelievably vicious. People will be shocked hards ferocity of it - Ken Livingstone, Labour MP



· NDEN

URDA ER 199.

# How had they put up with the ancien régime so long?



#### DAVID **AARONOVITCH** A TORY CONVERSION

For 80 years of courtship and marriage, John Marshall of East Kilbride believed that his wife, Ina, was the same age as he was. Now, 80 years is a long time to believe anything; most of us simply do not get the opportunity. So it can be imagined how bemused the 98-year-old Mr Marshall was, when - on opening birthday cards recently for his 98-year-old wife - he came across a telegram from HM the Queen. congratulating Mrs Marshall on reaching her centenary.

Mrs Marshall was phlegmatic. During the First World War, when the Marshalls were engaged, it had not really been the thing for a wife to be older than her husband. So the young Ina had adjusted the figures. But time and fashion had moved on, allowing Mrs Marshall to comment that "it doesn't really matter much now, does it?" John simply said that it was a little bard to take in.

I bet it was. And there are many who were here in Blackpool this week who know how John feels. On Thursday evening it was Michael Portillo who played the role of Queen's telegram. He stood up in the ornate Opera House in the Winter Gardens, and told his astonished audience that he was tolerant.

And he wasn't just a weeny hit tolerant either. He was a lot tolerant. He was tolerant of gays, he was tolerant of single mums, he was tolerant of unconventional families as long as they loved and cherished their kids. And he cared too. He just couldn't work out how it had got around that he hadn't cared. It mystified him, given all the things that he and his colleagues had done. But the bottom line was that he did

His audience might have told him how this strange impression had been created. They recalled with great clarity Mr Lilley's assault on ladies who had children with men to whom they were not married. And what about all those speeches excoriating scroungers, "bogus" asylum seekers, or how the welfare state had sapped enterprise, or how it was better for the wealthy to decide themselves how to dispose of their riches,

rather than be forced to pay it in taxes to pay for the caring services?

Like the Labour Party a decade carlier. the suited and grey-haired delegates listening to their hero were being asked to stand on their political heads. As socialists had been required to jettison the comforting childhood toys of penal taxation, collective ownership and trades union power, now Tories were being faced off with the consequences of their own

Sitting there among them I saw many of the same variations of response that I had witnessed (and indeed, shared) when Labour was called upon to change. First there were the (few) people that had really believed in tolerance and caring all along: gay Tories and folk like that. The mystery with them was how they had put up with the ancien rigime for so long. Then there were those who had had no very strong conviction, probably having been relaxed themselves in private, who seemed relieved to see the intolerant past go. Both groups applauded.

On the other side were men and women who were openly disgusted by Portillo's words, and felt their most cherished beliefs to be under assault from one they always considered to be their standard-beater. They shifted angrily in their seats and muttered their dissent. Slightly less angry were a group who felt very uncomfortable, but thought that if Portillo said it, then at the least it was worth considering.

But my favourites - at least one-third of the hall - were those who had vehemently expressed the old, authoritarian view, but afforded a sudden glimpse of a different, attractive world - jumped instantly and effortlessly from believing X to strongly endorsing the need for Y.

Mr Portillo, of course, knew what he was talking about. The juggernaut of social and economic change had run over some of the Tories' favourite doctrines, and change was a necessity. But, as ever, change had to be consistent with principle; only Labour changes because of a desire to court popularity. So hardly had the crowd drifted out of the Opera House before strenuous efforts were being made to reconcile the old (poofs and scroungers) with the new (life choices and caring).

The best of all came from the pen of Mr Peregrine Worsthorne, writing in the Mail. Perhaps, he suggested, toleration of - say gay marriage, would civilise homosexual culture, and lead to a lessening of gay promiscuity. Thus the original end (conventional morality) could be bette served through the changed means. And it was not as though he didn't have a respectable role model, either. "This is not a question," he went on, "of learning to love it. It is one of learning to live with it and make the best of it. If the Queen can become reconciled, however reluctantly and uncertainly to the modern world, who am I to lag behind?"

I have to say that I love this process. While I am no fan of moral relativism, and dislike those who cannot behave properly, I thoroughly approve of people changing their minds. And it is a testimony to the human spirit that we insist that however much we change our minds, we remain ourselves unchanged.

Anyway, Mrs Marshall usually ends up being right when she avers that "it doesn't really matter much now, does it?"



Watching her man: Ffion Jenkins at the Tory party conference yesterday

21/COMMENT

#### Photograph: Tom Pilston

# Ffion Jenkins: a model Tory fiancée

As the Tories struggled to come to terms with their loss last week in Blackpool, there was one unmitigated good news

"I've become the man who accompanied Ffion Jenkins to the Conservative Party conference," William Hague remarked mock-rucfully as the photographers jostled for just one more shot of his glamorous fiancée. Young, fresh-faced, full of vim and relatively photogenic, the opposition leader's future wife is just what the Tories need at the moment. And they have milked her for everything she has.

Well, perhaps not quite everything. Bear in mind that Miss Jenkins, 29, is an Oxford graduate who used to play clarinet with the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and who wrote an M.Phil thesis, entirely in Welsh, on the English bard Thomas Gray, Bear in mind also that she gave up her job as a top-flight civil servant after her engagement in March - she met Mr Hague when she was his private secretary at the Weish ( )thice — and has recently become director of operations at the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

Now, though, she stands mute beside her man. "There are no words from Ffion," explains her friend and press minder for the week, Nickie Durbin. Cherie Booth does not give interviews, she adds, so neither does Ffion. The energies of the political wife, it seems, must be devoted entirely to the twin tasks of looking immaculate and keeping schtum. Every word which passes her lips must be carefully vetted for the telltale traces of the "power behind the throne" syndrome.

There is something slightly different about Pfion, though. Take the scene in the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool, on Tuesday evening. Around 8,30pm, the foyer filled with an array of long lenses and flash guns which would have done any Hollywood star proud.

The reason? They had been called upon to record the wonder of Ffion's new trock. It has to be said that this rather natty mini-skirted black lace number by Neil Cunningham had been the cause of much speculation over a number of days. It had been rumoured - falsely, according to party sources to have cost £2,000. But even so, the event did mark a departure in political spindoctoring. Cherie's clothes may provoke a quite unwarranted amount of comment, but at least her minders do not invite the press along specifically to

photograph her latest outfit. Figon, of course, is younger than any party leader's other half has ever been. But still, the occasion was a bizarre one. After keeping the photographers waiting for 45 minutes, the pair appeared on the stairs and stood so there so stiffly that onlookers would have been forgiven for believing that they had never met before. Urged on by the crowds, they put their arms shyly around one another; but a request for Mr Hague to kiss his fiancée was greeted by the reply, "You'll have to

wait until the wedding for that." Despite the apparent awkwardness - on one of their earliest photocalls, she even had to guide his arm around her waist - the week has been a great success for her. As well as the photocall for her dress, she has been on show greeting Baroness Thatcher, visiting a children's play park and attending between 40 and 50 receptions with Mr Hague.

But according to Miss Durbin, a former Conservative **FRAN** 

#### **ABRAMS** A STAR IS BORN IN BLACKPOOL

press officer and friend of Miss Jenkins' from Cardiff who has taken on the job of temporary minder along with Sally Hendry, wife of the former High Peak MP Charles Hendry, she is enjoying the role. "Her priority is to back her finncé, her . future husband," she says.

"She's a very strong woman, a very intelligent woman, and she takes it all in the stride. She's a normal person like you and me. Six months ago nobody knew her, and suddenly she go engaged to the Secretary of State for Wales. The sheer volume of interest has been surprising, but I think she has coped admirably."

Meanwhile, Mr Hague seems to have a penchant for saying the wrong thing where his fiancée is concerned, "I like women so much that I've even decided to marry one," he told a meeting of Conservative women the other night.

Fortunately the party faithful are not shaken by gaffes such as this, and they seem to regard their leader's engagement as a wholly positive development. They have taken Ffion to their hearts, just as the press have. "She has been very touched by how people have treated her, both the representatives and the Conservative Party as a whole," says Nickie Durbin.

There had been grumbling in some quarters about the fact that the couple were to share a suite at the Imperial during the conference - Lady Thatcher was rumoured to have said they should have got married first. But the party in its new liberal mode does not seem worried. In fact, the stories helped to quell the malicious speculation that Hague's unexpected engagement two weeks before the general election was announced might have been rather too convenient, or even that he was gay.

As far as the party is concerned. Ffion is 100 per cent positive. "She's young and vital and she's just what we need," one Tory lady explained. "After all, it is 1997."

The fact that their leader's partner must remain silent does not worry them. Ffion is said not to talk about politics, even in private. Even Miss Durbin does not know her activities, although she was friend's views. "She isn't a sometimes criticised for it. political animal in the way that her husband-to-be is. She is here to support her fiance." When it was rumoured that Ffion was at odds with Mr Hague on the issue of Welsh devolution, he claimed they had not even discussed the subject.

For someone with her background, this seems more than a little strange. Her father is Emyr Jenkins, chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales, and her older sister, Dr Manon

Williams, is a key member of the Prince of Wales's staff. As a sentient member of the upper echelons of Welsh society, a former Welsh Office civil servant and the fiancée of a former Secretary of State for Wales, Ms Jenkins might be expected to have thought about devolution in recent months. But even if she does have strongly held views on political issues, she will be expected to

keep them to herself in future. There may be differences between the publicising of Cherie, the high-flying QC wife of the Prime Minister, and Ffion, the potentially equally high-flying fiancée of William Hague, but together their packaging represents a new strand of political culture. Just as we have come to accept that these women are likely to lead seoarate lives of their own which are quite unconnected to their partners' careers, we are diminishing their public roles,

Glenys Kinnock could con-

tinue with her own political Denis i naicher could make the odd crass remark in public and swill gin. Ffion Jenkins and Cherie Booth, meanwhile, must spend a fortune on haute couture in which to pose for pictures with children and animals. Heaven forbid that they should be allowed to open their mouths. After all, they might cause a scandal by saying something sensible. Let us hope, for their sakes, that their men are

# Year after year, the bitter toll of fathomless deaths



#### TREVOR **PHILLIPS** POLICING THE POLICE

If we are going to teach children of all backgrounds to love the historic culture of the British peoples, perhaps we need to pay very careful attention to the bit in the civics syllabus that deals with the glories of the nation's criminal justice system. In particular, we need to work out how to explain to our new Britons why it is that the one thing that the justice system does not appear

to deliver is justice. It deals with lots of criminals. Some of them are in uniform according to the nation's top cop, Sir Paul Condon. It is a system of sorts, in that it has rules and a framework, and moves people from one place to another. But justice? Tell that to the relatives of the 57

people who died in police custody over the 12 months to March 1997, according to Home Office figures released this week. Of the 29 cases where cause of death has been determined, 15 died apparently accidentally, and two by suicide. Depressingly, seven of those were black, continuing a trend of unexplained and inexplicable deaths in custody that has carried on for nearly three decades. There are too many uncer-

tainties here. Why do they die? How do they die? And how does it come about that year after year, there are new cases, new campaigns, new scandals; yet there is still a real chance that someone arrested for some small offence this weekend can wind up dead by Monday morning?

The tale of Leon Patterson, a young London man, stands for many. I first met Patterson when he was 17. He was already a small-time crook, who was serving his second stretch in a young offender institution. He talked like a pocket philosopher, holding forth on the inevitability of someone of his background ending up in crime, and serving periodic stretches at Her Majesty's plea-

Our paths did not cross again until in 1992. I learnt that after some years doing exactbeen found dead in a police cell in a small northern town, naked and foaming at the mouth. His blood was daubed all over the walls of the cell, and his skull was fractured. His family were more or less asked to believe that despite having spent the night in a police station, he was high on drugs; had managed to get rid of his clothing and then beaten himself so badly that he died of convulsions. And he did it all so quietly that no one noticed. His sister Stephanie has spent several years at least attempting.

through the wall of silence that protects the boys' killers, by offering effective immunity to anyone who comes forward with information. These are desperate measures, and can only really be contemplated because the system has so dismally failed to deliver anything like justice in this case. Initial investigations seemed to be directed far more at the victim than at his most likely assailants; later inquiries ran

began. The inquiry has already

made its first effort to break

Why do people die in custody? How do they die? How does it come about that year after year, there are new cases, new campaigns, new scandals?

to get an explanation even marginally more credible than this. As far as I know she still hasn't had one, and there seems little pressure to establish the truth. No one said Good riddance, but they might as well have done, so little effort seemed to be made to uncover what actually took place.

Of course, it is not only the accused who seem to suffer from a justice deficit. This week, the inquiry set up by Jack ly as he had predicted, he had Straw into the death of the

into resistance from the local community, who either wanted to protect the killers, or were too scared of them (or their big brothers) to tell the truth. The Lawrences' own private

attempts to force those who may know something to speak in court were blocked, and even the coroner failed to move things forward. I am sure that an inquiry is needed, but it is hard to see how it will break through the closed culture that has frustrated the

teenager Stephen Lawrence Lawrences at every turn. And then there are those who languish in jails, despite a mountain of evidence that they are innocent. I have recounted the story of Raphael Rowe before; he was convicted of assault and murder in the socalled M25 murders nine years ago. My doubts about this conviction remain: inconsistent statements, dodgy confessions, flaky witnesses, and discredited forensic evidence all play a part. But what is important is that in this case as in so many others, it is transparently clear

that something stinks to high heaven. Yet the process of reviewing the case is complicated, bureaucratic, and expensive. And by past experience, you stand little chance of getting at the truth. You could read into this the lesson that the courts and police are so good and thorough at their work that it is entirely

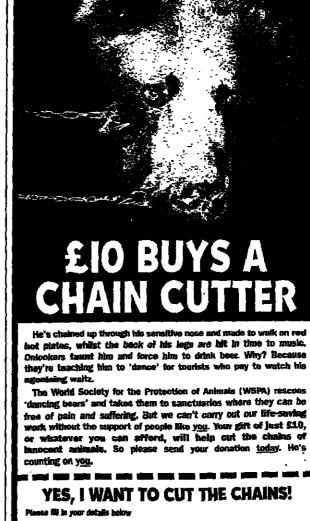
understandable that protests against their results fail. Perhaps; but if you mention Guildford, Birmingham, the Taylor sisters and so on, this argument begins to sound like the feeble rubbish it is.

So far the new Criminal Cases Review Commission looks as though it is taking its work seriously. Good. But does it have the power to investigate properly? Can it, as an examming magistrate can in France, get into a case, order the po-

lice to deliver evidence, requisition new studies, and follow its nose to the real answer? Not really. As I understand it, the Commission is limited to ensuring that the conduct of the case was correct. That's not enough. Someone needs to be able to revisit the investigations and do them again if necessary. We need to act before our faith in the system falls further.

One step is obvious, and widely supported. Stop the police investigating themselves. No one believes their findings, probably unfairly; it is humiliating for decent coppers to find themselves forever under the shadow of suspicion because the system devised for checking their conduct is faulty.

Second, we need to throw off the historic belief that once a court has decided its verdict that should be the end of it, unless a higher court decides another way. New techniques of investigation, new insights into the human mind are constantly offering us greater certainty. There must be new ways found of allowing deeper, thoroughgoing reviews of the decisions of courts of all kinds. Perhaps it would exert a new discipline on all the officers of our courts to get it right. None of this can bring back the dead; but we need to bring the right people to book, if we are going to be a society at ease



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# **Michael Cummings**

**Arthur Stuart Michael** Cummings, cartoonist: born Leeds | June 1919; OBE 1983; married (one step-son); died London 9 October 1997.

"The pen is mightier than the sword, a cliché old but true, was dusted off by the late

columnist Jean Rook when she did an anniversary interview with her fellow Daily Express staffer, Michael Cummings. This was some years ago when Cimmings was already on the way to establishing a record for a cartoonist's spell with a single newspaper. By the time he officially retired from Express



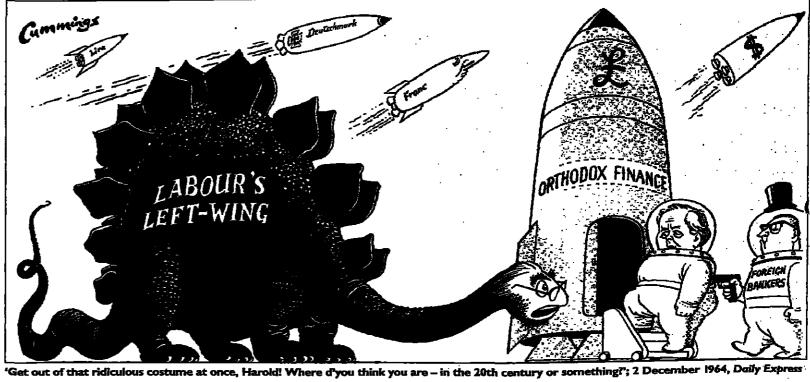
Cummings: hard-edged caricature of political personalities

Newspapers in 1990 he had worked there for over 40 years, and after several more years of freelancing for both the Daily and the Sunday Express, it was not far short of the halfcentury.

Michael Cummings was born in Leeds in 1919, in the aftermath of the Great War. His father was A.J. Cummings, a political columnist of the period who would achieve Fleet Street fame as the political editor of the old News Chronicle. Clearly the seriousness of the father was a major influence on the growing boy, who chanced to have an obvious instinct toward drawing.

The young Michael had a good education, starting with The Hall in Hampstead and moving on to Gresham's School in Norfolk. Then he went on to art school, studying at the Chelsea School of Art for three vears before he was called up into the Royal Air Force. Able to make use of his artistic ability, the RAF made him a Draftsman and he was posted to the Air Ministry. Here he drew aeroplane parts for the duration, and on discharge promptly resumed his arts studies at Chelsea.

Cummings had been aiming get published, and it became in-



tooning since his school days, and freelanced the odd sketches here and there. His first success came with the left-wing weekly Tribune in 1939, a paper that reflected his own political leanings. He returned to the Tribune after the war where the editor, Michael Foot, gave him steady work as an illustrator for the book review page. Now and then a political picture would

at a career in political car- creasingly obvious where Cummings's future lay.

> In 1948 his father encouraged him to try for a cartooning job on the Daily Express. where he had heard there was a whisper that Giles, the country's leading cartoonist, was seeking some relief from the day-after-day drive of turning out the newspaper's regular editorial cartoon. Lord Beaverbrook, the paper's proprietor and a lifelong enthusiast for car

toons and cartoonists, spotted the young artist's potential and could see that Cummings' style, more serious and more life-like than that of Giles, would make an interesting contrast if the two

cartoonists were alternated. Unhappily for Cummings, his editor did not at first agree, and sacked the young man after a three month's trial. However, Beaverbrook intervened and insisted that the newcomer was given another chance. He was,

satisfied from editor and proand this time won through. Cummings and Giles now prietor down to the reader in drew three editorial cartoons a week each, with Cummings

Despite Cummings' caricatures of everyone from the Queen on down, he was appointed OBE in 1983, and by 1989 had published 5,000 cartoons. Many of these were republished in annual albums which ran from 1954. The first was entitled These Uproarious

- Denis Gifford

#### **Professor Alexander Lutsko**

Alexander Lutsko, nuclear physicist: born Osipovichi, Belorussia 23 January 1941; Professor of Nuclear Physics, **Belarus State University** 1987-90; Rector, Internation Sakharov College of Radioecology, Minsk 1990-97; married Valeria Mamontova (one daughter); died Sierra Nevada, Spain 4 September

As Founder and Rector of the International Sakharov Institute of Radioecology in Minsk, Alexander Lutsko showed great compassion to that generation of Belarusan children suffering from cancerous illnesses and performing artists at the brought about by nuclear radiation following the 1986 Cher- walls of the Sakharov Institute nobyl disaster. The Sakharov are today fortified with the

education of specialists in radiation medicine. This is a field which explores the means of protection from radiation and the development of academic courses in biomedical sciences linked to nuclear physics.

Lutsko was the personification of the "scientist as artist". He had a vision of a new international system of education across the whole former Soviet Union, a system which would develop the individual's personality; the monolithic Soviet university education was a legacy of Marxism he particularly despised. He was proud to be included with Belarusan visual 1995 Edinburgh Festival. The

vich, "is to be a scientist." Elena Bonner, Andrei Sakharov's widow, has provided

inspiration and support to the institute from the day it opened its doors in November 1992. Its unlikely site is what was a suburban secondary school in an unnoteworthy street, Dolgobrodskaya, next to the enormous complex of the Minsk Tractor Factory billowing chimney smoke. The institute came into being on the wave of the new political ideas and initiatives sweeping Belarus when it gained independence from the Soviet Union in December 1991.

Lutsko was born in 1941, in a small town 100 kilometres south of Minsk. From 1978 to 1987 he worked at the Institute of Biochemistry at the Acadeinto ionising radiation and the be an artist," said Kazimir Male- in Vladivostok. He was a leader Lutsko: 'scientist as artist'

in the Soviet Union's scientific explorations, voyaging through the Sea of Japan, Pacific and Indian Oceans. The dissemination of his reports - he identified nuclear activity as a result of the disposal of Russian submarines - caused surprise and unease to



Mikhail Gorbachev's administration in its early years. From 1987 to 1990, as Pro-

fessor of Nuclear Physics at Belarus State University, Lutsko headed the university's Isotope Laboratory. The creation of the Sakharov Institute owed much to his friendship with his university colleague Stanislav Shushkevich. Together they masterminded the removal of all nuclear weapons from Belarus territory.

The new nation state of Belarus is strategically positioned at the heart of the new post-Berlin-Wall Europe, bordering on Russia, Poland, Lithuania and the Ukraine and equal in size to Scotland, but with a population twice that of Scotland. The two friends worked time; Shushkevich was seen as landscape. I shall never forget ly in the last three years, and a

the ideal political leader in his role as Speaker at the Belarus parliament. In the political upheavals and unrest of the last three years he is now a vigorous member of the Opposition.

I was introduced to Alexander Lutsko through the work of my Kingston University colleague Alan Flowers, who was attracted to my work as Professor of European Cultural Studies and my preparedness to link the faculties of the arts and the sciences. Lutsko participated in a special summer school in 1995, "Bridging the Gap between Science and Art, and between Eastern and Western Europe", in the form of an expedition through 25 gardenscapes in England and Scotland leading to exhibitions and symposia in Edinburgh and

him in reflective mood in the garden of Combermere Abbey in Cheshire, or at St Leonard's School in St Andrews en route to the Edinburgh Festival. Lutsko was fascinated by the

getting the extra one in the Sun-

day Express. The alternation of

Giles' comical cartoon family

up to their "Casey Court" ca-

pers in very realistic settings,

with Cummings' hard-edged

caricature of political person-

alities and parties in highly

imaginative set-ups, worked

brilliantly, and everyone was

direct line between creative genius and insanity, and it was at St Leonard's, at a Demarco European Art Foundation symposium, that he presented his thesis The Theory of Abnormality, in which he suggested ways of narrowing the gap between the logical and intuitive ways of investigating the nature of reality. One of his fellow speakers there was Vytautis Landsbergis, the first democratically elected President of the independent state of Lithuania. Kingston University has giv-

en much support to the

programme of academic studies has developed to the mutual benefit of both students and teachers. Through this alliance the British Foreign Office "Know-How" Fund has given more to the Sakharov Institute than any other Belarusan academic institute.

All those who went to Alexander Lutsko's apartment in Pushkinskaya will remember his extraordinary hospitality in his large drawing-room, its every inch covered in photographs, artefacts, sea shells and sculpture, recording his love of travel and visual art. He regarded everyone he met as a potential friend

Lutsko died of sudden heart failure near the summit of a mountain in the Sierra Nevada III OVET Y,UUU IEE Richard Demard

## Muqimuddin Farooqi

Muqimuddin Farooqi, party activist: born Ambetha Uttar Pradesh, India 1920; joined Communist Party of India (CPI) 1940, member, national council 1958, central executive 1972, central secretariat 1981: married Vimla Kapoor (one son); died New Delhi 3 September 1997.

Muqimuddin Faroogi was one of the last Indian Communist leaders. He championed the work-

ing-class movement for over four decades, firmly believing that socialism would ultimately prevail. Although the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe affected him deeply, he remained convinced that socialism was a workable science and "could not die".

As national secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI) for 25 years. Faroogi was respected even by his political adversaries for his integrity.

in a white homespun pyjama and kurta, or long shirt, he was probably the most accessible leftist leader in New Delhi, who practised his ideology, living in a couple of dingy, airless rooms above the party office in the heart of the city, eating frugally and always willing to help anyone in trouble.

Soft-spoken and always dressed

Age did not affect his political militancy and his last public speech, minutes before he suffered a cardiac arrest, was

against the venality of the Congress Party which supports the federal 15-party United Front coalition government. In contemporary Indian politics Faroogi was a nostalgic reminder that things had not always been so rudderless and shorn of principle.

Muqimuddin Farooqi was born in 1920 in Ambetha, a small town in Saharanpur district in northern Uttar Pradesh state, into a modest Muslim household and educated local-

ly. He moved to the prestigious St Stephen's College in Delhi for his Master's degree, became college president, and joined the Communist Party of India, then fighting the colonial gov-

ernment for independence. In 1940 he was expelled for successfully organising a university strike against the arrest of Jawaharlal Nehru, then a Congress party leader, and later free India's first prime minister. The British university vice-chancellor forfeited his

MA degree which, much to Farooqi's delight was restored to him at a special convocation 49 years later in 1989.

Thereafter, Farooqi became the first general secretary of the All India Student's Federation and was jailed three times by the colonial government for participating in the Quit India movement launched against the British by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942. In 1964, however, Farooqi opted to remain with the "progressive bourgeoisie"

Marxists who split the CPI to form the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the CPM. Soon after, he rose to become a member of the Communist Party's central executive, its highest decision-making body. And,

group, opposing the radical

though the CPI joined the federal coalition after general elections last year Farooqi often broke with party discipline, lashing out at the government for its ineptitude and corruption.





Farooqi: to him, socialism was a workable science

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in wrking to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 SDL, telephoned to 0771-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0771-293 2012) or faused to 0771-293 2012). 293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Lectures

TODAY National Gallery: Rebecca Drew. 'Cityscapes (2): Canaletto's Venice'

Victoria and Albert Museum: Eleanor Townsend, "The Development of Renaissance Maiolica 2.30pm.

British Museum: Delia Pemberton, "'Clothe Yoursell'in Fine Linen': an-cient Egyptian textiles", 1.15pm. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury,

Spiralling Cycles of Subjects and Styles", 3pm.
National Portrait Gallery: Alfred Bradley, "E.F. Benson, Creator of the Mapp and Lucia Novels", 3pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, Minchin-hampton Centre for the Elderly, opens a new building at the centre. Wind-mill Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud.

Changing of the Guard

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mount ed Regiment mounts the Outen's Life Guard at Horse Gaards, 11am. TO MORROW: The Household Cavairy Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am: 15T Bataltion Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palece, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots

#### Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark, former MP, 65: Miss Maria Bueno, tennis player, 58; The Hon Sir Adam Butler, former MP and government minister, 66; Sir Bobby Charlton, footballer, 60; Vice Admiral Sir John Coward, Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, 60; Sir Timothy Daunt, former ambassador to Turkey, 62; Sir Michael Edwardes, company chairman, 67; Mr Tony Evans, Head Master, King's College School, Wimbledon, 52; Miss Dawn French, actress and comedienne, 40; Mr Geoffrey Haslam, insurance company director, 83; Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, The Rank Organisation 65: Mr Charles Jones, grants administrator, CIBT Education Services, UK, 63; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McIntosh, 78; Mr Alan Pascoe, former Olympic hurdler, 50; Lord Pri-or, chairman, GEC, 70; Mr David Rendall, tenor, 49; Mr Jerome Rob-bins, choreographer, 79; Miss Marsha Singh MP, 43; Air Marshal Sir Michael Stear, 59; Lord Tordoff, former president of the Liberal Party, 69; Mr Thomas Wheare, headmaster of Bryanston School, 53; Mr Richard

Wilson, civil servant, 55; Mr Tony Worthington MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Northern Ireland Office, 56. TOMORROW: Professor Juliet Cheetham, sociologist, 58; Dame Elizabeth Chesterton, architect, 82; Mr Jaroslav Drobny, former tennis player, 76; Mr Anthony Figgis, am-bassador to Austria, 57; Mr Kenneth Griffith, actor, writer and documentary film maker, 76; Mr Robert Heron, former director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 70; Mr Jonathan Holborow, editor, the Mail on Sunday, 54; Mr Magnus Magnusson, television quizmaster and writer, 68; Dr John Moffatt, former orovost, The Queen's College, Ox-lord, 75; Mr Rick Parfitt, guitar player and singer, 49; Vice-Admiral Sir John Parker, 82; Mr Luciano

Pavarotti, operatic tenor. 62; Miss Angela Rippon, television presenter. 53; Mr David Threlfall, actor. 44; Mr Michael Verey, merchant banker. 85: Mr Nigel Waterson MP, 47; Sir David White, chairman, Nottingham Health Authority, 68.

#### **Anniversaries**

TODAY: Births: Henry John Heinz, food-products magnate, 1844; Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, writer and lec-turer, 1884; Richard Burton (Jenkins), actor, 1925. Deaths: Sir Thomas Wyatt, poet and diplomat, 1542; Leonard "Chico" Marx, comedian, 1961; Jean Cocteau. poet. novelist and playwright, 1963. On this day: the Order of the Bath was const tuted, 1399; the title "Defender of the Faith" was conferred on Henry VIII by Pope Leo X, 1521; Peter the Great became Tsar of Russia, 1669; the Apollo 7 spacecraft, with a crew of three, was launched from Cape Kennedy, 1968. Today is the Feas Day of St Agilbert, St Alexander Sauli, St Bruno the Great of Cologne, St Canice or Kenneth, St Gummarus or Gomaire. St Mary Soledad and St Nectarius of Constantinople. Today is also Yom Kippur (the Day of Atomement).

TOMORROW: Births: Edward VI, King of England, 1537; James Ramsay MacDonald, statesman, 1866: Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1872 Deaths: Piero della Francesca. painter and writer, 1492; Elizabeth Fry (Gurney), Quaker prison re-former, 1845; Robert Stephenson, civil engineer, 1859; Edith Louisa Cavell, nurse, executed by the Ger-Cavell, nurse, executed by the Germans, 1915. On this day: the first Morris Minor car designed by Alec Issigonis was produced at Cowley. Oron, 1948. Today is the Feast Day of St Edwin, St Ethelburga of Barking Spitter Februard Opprian. St Morris Spitter Februard Opprian. St Morris Spitter Februard Opprian. St Morris Spitter Februard Opprian. ing, Saints Felix and Cyprian, St Mus-inglian of Lorch and St Wilfrid of York.

Incitements to violence within sacred texts Over the past millennium so-

FAITH & REASON

called Christian societies have shamelessly used religion as an

excuse for violence, claims a new book - or is it the other way round? John Kennedy examines the evidence. In his provocative new book, Does Chris-

tianity Cause War?, David Martin picks a fight with the zoologist Richard Dawkins, who claims that Christian certainty causes war: he insists that such infantilism is outdated, along with belief in Father Christmas and the tooth fairy. Professor Martin is a celebrated Christian believer. He dismisses Dawkins' views as an example of Enlightenment superstition.

Many Christians will tend to side with Dawkins in this Holy War. But the evidence is misleading. Consider, for instance, the First World War memorial to the Machine Gun Corps at Hyde Park Corner. It shows a naked King David, whose bottom gleams up Park Lane. He displays his full frontality down Constitution Hill. He has a very large sword. The inscription reads "Saul has slain his thousands, but David has slain his tens of thousands?.

This piece of vainglorious stupidity mocks God and maligns the dead. But it is not specially Christian, although thieved from our sacred texts. And therein lies the problem. Most human governance is ruthlessly tyrannical, and conscripts everything in aid of its projects - especially the sacred. Martin handles this contradiction brilliantly - the zest with which rulers manage and deploy violence, including

the Saviour who died by it. But Martin rather avoids the incitements to violence that lie within those sacred texts, not least the genocidal conflicts of David's time. He also understates one central problem of Christianity: the claim that its universociologist of religion, and obviously a sally relevant truth is the property of an exclusive group, the Saved.

Give those keys to the ruler of any worldly kingdom, and justified mayhem is inevitable. But it is remarkable that such purely religious strife arose mainly in the first half of the second Christion Millennium. Here Martin is surely right - but he does let the Crusaders off lightly. Although it is true that they were mainly Gothic thugs from Northern Europe, they were clearly cheered on by Bernard of Clairvaux and Catherine of Siena. He is, however, right to exclude the 150 years of allegedly religious wars in Europe from 1500; this

was essentially a Catholic civil war between Spain and France, driven by national rather than religious identity.

Martin explores the growing diversity of relations between church and society in the following centuries. That Catholic family quarrel war left Christendom in ruins and a new Protestant ascendancy in Britain and North America. These societies retained a shameless capacity for self-justifying violence, in the British Empire and on the American Frontier. But their churches began to peel apart from the body politic, and helped to make that body less tyrannical. They begin to govern by consent rather than by assertion of divine right. Communities are given the freedom to choose, and tend to choose peace. The pattern spreads more widely; liberal democracies do not make war upon one another, and induce others to do so only at the risk of angry protest. There is a Christian root to this, and a Christian future, as suggested in the growth of peaceable Pentecostalism worldwide.

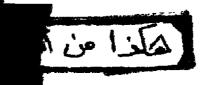
Elsewhere, having given up childish things. Europe got on with some really grown-up wars. Napoleon. Stalin and Hitler are children of the Dawkinsian Enlightenment, though they may have ble that a zoologist is a better guide than been born on the wrong side of that blan- an expositor of religion. ket. It seems reasonable to argue that Christianity does not cause war in itself,

and that its restraints have, for most of its history, avoided the horrific conflicts

that mar the post-Christendom period. Martin regrets the inability of the churches to develop some practical wisdom from their revealed truths. He is especially amused by the antics of the international Christian bureaucracy, whose hyper-moralism displays every virtue but that of utility. It's worse than he imagines. The World Council of Churches now proclaims that the Churches should renounce all theological and other justification of the use of military force. In their fanatic zeal they fail to see that such a new commandment is totalitarian rather than pacifist - it simply suppresses debate.

Martin insists that the Christian vocation in public life is inevitably engaged with violence, which sits uneasily with Christian commitment. He indicates the complex relations between the experience of the sacred, the social nature of religion and the logic of politics. He wants another Reinhold Niebuhr to stimulate us, but in the n. cantine he is not doing badly himself. The next century will be as religious and conflictual as this - but not. God willing, so terri-

"Faith and Reason' is edited by Paul Vallely.



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# Financial shares set the pace as takeover hopes grow

MARKET REPORT



**DEREK PAIN STOCK** MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

(EN EN

Financial shares, which for drew attention to Woolwich, long led Footsie higher on up 3.5p to 317.5p. It is capitechnical considerations, are talised at £5bn against Abbey's once again setting the pace - £13bn. but this time its down to take-

Others, like Norwich Union and Woolwich, also enjoyed the action.

At one time Abbey was up 42p; it closed with a 34p gain still on the buy tack. at 954.5p. The first building society to turn itself into a bank has already had an eventful year, holding talks with a number of rivals and being linked with the likes of National

Now it is being suggested that Barclays, when it collects also lifted Halifax, 14.5p to its BZW cash, could be 742p; it is big enough and has tempted into a bid by Abbey's the resources to mount a mahuge mortgage book. But the jor strike and insurance is an obvious attraction. Lloyds

The Abbey advance was helped by bullish comment Abbey National stole the from HSBC, ahead of a tradstock market show yesterday. ing statement in the next two

> firm, gaining another 3.5p to 351.5p with NatWest Securities Other insurance groups

Norwich Union remained

made headway with speculation about corporate action never far away. GRE gained 7p to 325p; General Accident 19p to 1,085.5p and Commer-

Northern Rock, the last building society to convert into a bank, was also engulfed long-standing bank - Barclays.

- was one story. An even more bizarre one contemplated a strike from Great Universal Stores. Such a deal would be the ultimate in the current round of bank-retailer links. The shares jumped 16.5p to a 498p peak. They ended their first day's trading last week at 463p.

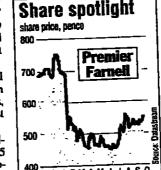
The carlier more technical financial feast stemmed from cial Union 9p to 806.5p. financial feast stemmed from the rush of demutalisations, the rush of demutalisations. forcing tracker funds to adjust their portfolios.

Footsie, in lacklustre trading, manage to yawn to a 9.5 points gain at 5,227.3. Sup-

ambitions, gained 8.5p to with the FTSE SmallCap in- Strauss Turnbull caution. dex reaching a peak.

ter came to an abrupt halt as time, motored 12.5p to 78.5p SBC Warburg suggested a as Jardine International, the

RioTinto, the resources again, or National Westminster giant, added 4p to 974.5p following an analysts trip to Nevada but GKN dipped 7p (after 35p) to 1,396.5p following Societe Generale



x reaching a peak.

Ladbroke's impressive canlooked vulnerable for some in speculation. A bid from a 270p price; it fell 5p to 293p. Far Eastern group, appeared with an 80p-a-share offer pricing the garage chain at £53.3m.

Rediand hardened 17.5p to 257.5p as takeover rumours went the rounds. Last week chairman Rupert Agnew con- tal injection. ceded the hard pressed building materials group could be wide open to a bid. However some of the gain could have been due to the higher German interest rates, which group. should take some of the pressure from Redland's conti-

nental operations. Premier Farnell, the electrical equipment distributor, added 10.5p to 551p ahead of

Allied Domecq, the pubs and spirits group, rose 5.5p to 496p, anticipating its strategic review and Highland Distilleries, the Famous Grouse Scotch whisky group, bumped along at its 12 month low of 284p; there are worries it may have to help out its French partner, Remy Cointreau,

through a rescue bid or capi-Engineer IMI added 10p to 439.5p, a high. The company is benefiting from its £86m take over of Herion-Werke, a German pneumatic valves

Nottingham Forest, the latest football club to make its debut, failed to score, ending at 61p against the hoped-for 70p.

Pan Andean Resources held at 35p. It and other mining Monday's interim figures. shares in the John Teeling Around £74m against £63.8m stable are thought to have been depressed by a forced seller.

#### TAKING STOCK

Cortecs International, the biotech group, should move its domicile from Australia to Britain by late November. The switch should help the shares. They have suffered because some domestic funds are not allowed to invest in overseas stocks. Indeed, Cortecs was hit by sudden selling by a fund which acquired the shares in the mistaken belief Cortecs was British registered. The move to PLC status may also make the shares eligible for PEPs. The price firmed 2p to 175.5p.

Vocalis, a voice recognition group, recorded a 12p gain to 69.5p following a £3m contract with Ericsson. It is its fourth deal with the Swedish group. The shares arrived last year at 95p and went to 123p but, before the Ericsson deal, were around their low

	huge mortgage book. But the jor strike and insurance is an ing, manage is an suspicion that it could regard obvious attraction. Lloyds points gain at 5,227,3. Suppoints gain at 5,227,
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# Davies drafts old guard into new City regulator

The financial services megaregulator, SuperSIB, came a step closer yesterday after the chairman, Howard Davies, named his key deputies. All three are currently with regulators.

Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor. reports on the creation of the new City watchdog.

The new unified City regulator began to take shape yesterday after Howard Davies named three managing directors to work under him, drawing exclusively on existing regulators to fill the posts.

He also clarified the structure of the enlarged financial services watchdog, confirming that the system of regulation by type of institution was to be ditched in favour of supervising different functions across all types of business.

Dubbed SuperSIB by the media and known as NewRO internally, the new watchdog will not be named officially until the end of the month when the new organisation will be formally launched and its new executives introduced.

By opting for a flat management structure, with no chief executive, Mr Davies found senior positions in the new organisations for the key figures in the self-regulatory organisations that will be replaced by SuperSIB.

He deliberately avoided the creation of a chief executive's position in order to maintain the loyalty of senior regulators who might otherwise have been unwilling to give up their existing fieldoms for what they perceived to be smaller jobs.

The only surprise omission from yesterday's line-up was Securities and Investments Board chief executive Andrew Winckler, who leaves SIB at the end of the year. Like Colette Bowe, head of the Personal Investment Authority, Mr Winckler decided against swapping the top job at an existing regulator for a second-tier role in the enlarged watchdog.

The three managing directors named yesterday are:

and Futures Authority, who will chair Farrant, Phillip Thorpe and Michael SuperSIB's management committee and be Foot to main roles at NewRO

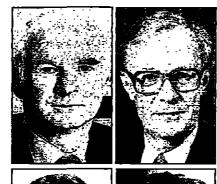
directly responsible, as chief operating officer, for the regulator's internal operations, including human resources and finance.

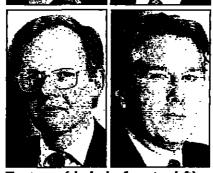
Michael Foot, the Bank of England executive director responsible for banking supervision, who will head up a new financial supervision function encompassing all types of institutions.

Phillip Thorpe, who has headed the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro). He will lead an authorisation and enforcement division and take on responsibility for consumer relations.

Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday they planned to make the appointments to the SIB board before Royal assent was given to the Bank of England Bill, which stripped from the Bank its supervisory role.

Once that bill is passed, expected to be in the spring of next year, the SIB board will become responsible for all regulation. The existing self-regulatory organisations will, however, not be officially rolled into SuperSIB until a new financial services act is passed, which might not be until 2000.





Top team: (clockwise from top left) Richard Farrant, head of the Securities Howard Davies has appointed Richard

Mr Davies said yesterday that two-year transition period presented risks, but he said it was a better alternative to leaving the SROs independent. Wrapping the front-line regulators in informally would reduce the risk of staff leaving or firms dragging their feet on enforcement issues because they felt they were dealing with a lame duck regulator.

The appointments were being seen yesterday as a neat solution to a potentially difficult combination of high-profile appointments. Observers said Mr Farrant was being rewarded for running arguably the best-managed SRO, while Mr Thorpe's appointment was viewed as an appropriate prize for his deft handling of the Peter Young scandal at Morgan Grenfell in which he ensured that thousands of investors were promptly compensated.

It is thought that success, together with a series of stiff fines for regulatory transgressions, gave the 43-year-old former barrister from New Zealand the edge over Ms Bowe, whose PIA has struggled to enforce adequate redress for the pensions mis-selling scandal.

As well as running the SFA, Mr Farrant, 52, has experience of banking supervision at the Bank of England and as an adviser to the Hong Kong Banking Commissioner where he handled a succession of crises at local banks.

Mr Foot, 50. has been at the Bank of England since 1969 when he joined as an economist. His career has included a spell as head of the Bank's foreign exchange division and as the UK's representative at the IMF in Washington.

Other appointments announced yesterday included Oliver Page, a deputy director at the Bank of England, as a director of financial supervision. Martin Roberts moves from the DTI to become director of insurance and friendly society supervision.

Mr Davies said yesterday: "I now have my top team in place. All three bring particular strengths. But the key will be for us to work together as a team. We are fully committed to doing so."

The creation of the new vertical structure replaces the old system in which one office oversaw all aspects of regulation for a particular type of financial business. Mr Davies said the new system had been arrived at after an internal study backed up by outside consultants from McKinsey.



John Leach, chief executive of Brent Walker (left), with the Close Brothers Corporate Finance executive, John Llewellyn-Lloyd, who handled the sale of William Hill

#### End of the road for Brent Walker

Brent Walker looks certain to be liqui- be no return for shareholders and its shares independent force in British betting dated following the sale of William Hill. its last remaining substantial subsidiary, for £700m to Nomura. The disposal marks the end of the leisure empire built up by former boxer George Walker which at one time owned marinas, more than 1,000 pubs and the bookmakers, which were sold yesterday.

Completion of the sale will leave Brent Walker with less than £5m of assets offset by more than £500m of debts owed to a consortium of banks, most of which have written off the bad loans. There will

will be delisted at the end of the mouth.

Nomura's acquisition of William Hill's 1,500 betting offices makes it the secondlargest bookmaker in Britain after Ladbroke. It is understood to have outbid rival Bass, which owns the smaller Coral chain, as well as a venture capitalbacked management buyout. The Japanese takeover is likely to signal the end for the incumbent management.

Guy Hands, head of Nomura's principal finance group, said: "William Hill has a great future. We will create a new

which will stimulate greater competition in the industry."

Nomura has made a series of large acquisitions in Britain recently, including 5,400 pubs to make it the country's largest pub landlord, a train leasing company and. a portfolio of Ministry of Defence housing. Its strategy in each case has been to use the strong cash flow from the assets to back bond issues ahead of a planned flotation of the business after between three and five years.

Tom Stevenson

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### **US** price levels give markets another fright

For the third day running, the financial markets got a bit of a fright. This time, reports Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, it was due to news of an alarming increase in the prices charged by US manufacturers.

Wall Street's knee-jerk reaction to the latest economic statistics was to mark share and bond prices sharply lower. Although they later recovered a little. there was little comfort for those who fear the long-awaited stock market "correction" is

The Dow Jones index fell nearly 60 points almost as soon as it opened, but was only 25 points down at 8,036.37 by late morning. Treasury bonds shed more than a point. In London the FTSE 100 index ended 9.5 points higher at 5,227.3 after falling as much as 31 points during the day.

The 0.5 per cent rise in US producer prices last month was more than twice as much as analysts had expected. Prices have stopped falling at an annual rate and now look to be heading firmly upwards. This appeared to put flesh on

the bones of fears expressed on Wednesday by Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, when he warned of the danger of higher inflation due to the tight labour market and strong

Higher energy prices helped explain the price surge, the second monthly increase after seven months of decline. But the "core" index, excluding energy and food, jumped by 0.4 per cent anyway after a 0.1 per cent rise in August.

Energy costs rose 1.5 per cent last month after a 1.4 per cent gain in August. Petrol prices were up 2.2 per cent in September following a 5.9 per cent surge in August.

There were other special factors helping explain the increase in core prices. Tobacco prices jumped 3.2 per cent because manufacturers raised the price of a pack of cigarettes by seven cents at the start of September as the industry prepared for the expected costs of settling lawsuits. In addition, new car prices

increased by 1.4 per cent, their strongest gain since October

Some economists drew comfort from these one-off effects. David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities in New York, said: "There is no discernible change in the underlying tame inflation picture."

But others said yesterday's figures suggested inflation was indeed on an upward trend. "It is likely to affect the market's perception of the possibility of a rate hike," said Christopher Low of HSBC Markets.

bad news has clearly left the world's stock and bond markets on edge. Mr Greenspan's testimony, sowing seeds of doubt about the US economy's prospects for inflation-free growth, was followed on Thursday by an unexpected increase in German and French interest rates. This was seen as a step towards getting European interest rates in line ahead of the start date for the single currency.

A senior Bank of England official said yesterday that preparations in the City of London for the start of the single currency were well under director at the Bank, said: "The London markets will need to be able to operate in the euro from the outset across the full range of their wholesale activities and practical preparations are now well advanced to achieve that by January 1999."

### Sheaffer battle heads for US court

company.

Genifor, the current owners of

led by ex-Parker Pen executives

Owen Jones and Shane Dolo-

hanty, approached Alchemy for

funding for a management buy-

out. Alchemy then approached

Genifor who re-ignited talks

with Bic to generate competi-

tion. Bic later signed an agree-

acknowledgement that man-

The battle for Sheaffer, the loss-making American pens business, could come to a US court next week as a UK venture capital company fights it out with Bic, the French giant best known for Biros and disposable razors. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on a messy affair.

Alchemy, the venture capital company run by Jon Moulton. is hoping to secure an early court hearing in New York to decide who will win control of Sheaffer, one of the world's best-known pen makers.

A hearing is not scheduled until January but Alchemy says Sheaffer's finances are so pre-

MCI to consider bid

from WorldCom

carious that a delay would prove damaging to the business. It is keen to decide the matter so improvements can be made in time for the all-important Christmas selling season. It is pushing for a hearing in the Appellant Court in New York as soon as possible.

The court's decision should end a bruising battle between Alchemy and Bic, both of whom feel they have the right to buy Sheaffer. Both are offering around \$30m for the business. Sheaffer certainly needs

fresh hacking. Though a wellknown name it has been lossmaking for years and last year lost "several million dollars" on sales of around £35m. It has suffered from lack of product innovation and fierce competition from rivals, particularly Gillette. the razor company which owns the Parker, Watermans and Papermate brands.

agement had a right of refusal. Though Alchemy later said it would exercise that right

The bid battle dates back to and match the Bic offer, Bic last year and focuses on a right went to court to block it, sayof refusal which the Sheaffer ing it was Alchemy that had taken up the right of refusal, not management have to buy the the management. Martin Bolland of Alchemy Bic made an approach to

expressed confidence yesterday

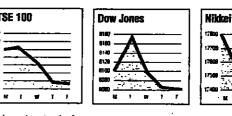
Sheaffer, last year. Genifor is a that a hearing would go in its favour. "The first hearing went Geneva-based, Luxembourg quoted company with Middle overwhelming in our favour, Eastern backing, which paid then they appealed." he said \$135m for Sheaffer 10 years ago. If Alchemy's management buy-out team wins the legal The talks later broke down and the Sheaffer management,

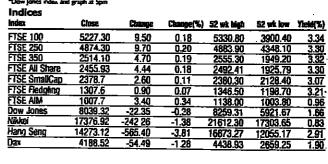
fight, it says it will revitalise Sheaffer by investing in new product development. It would be pleasing deal for Jon Moulton, who backed the

buy-out of Parker Pen from Manpower when he was at Schroder Ventures. Parker Pen's middle manment, for around \$30m, with the

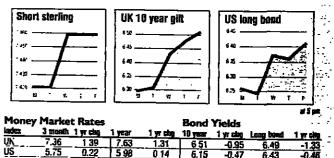
agement team then included Mr Jones and Mr Dolohanty, who are now respectively the chief executive an chief financial officer of Sheaffer.

#### STOCK MARKETS

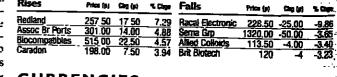




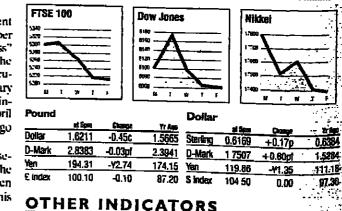
#### INTEREST RATES



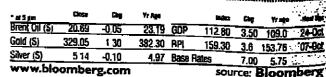
#### MAIN PRICE CHANGES



#### CURRENCIES



#### OTHER INDICATORS



### **Azlan launches** £24m rescue issue

This week's succession of The board of MCI, British Telecom's US partner, last night agreed to further evaluate the \$30bn bid launched by the rival US telecoms group WorldCom.

This is the first time MCI has met formally to consider the bid since WorldCom stunned Wall Street and BT 10 days ago with its unsolicited offer which topped BT's agreed \$23bn bid. However, MCI has not set

a deadline for when it will decide which bid to recommend to shareholders. The World-Com offer, which is entirely in the form of paper, values MCI at \$41.5 a share, BT's cash and way. Ian Plenderleith, executive shares offer values MCI at around \$34 a share.

MCI has appointed Lehman Brothers in New York to advise it on the WorldCom offer. It was already being advised on the BT deal by investment bankers from Lazard Freres. "They [MCI's directors] now

have a second advisor, and they will say they would like to be more informed," said Steven Cohen, research director at Kellner DiLeo, a New York arbitrage firm. "MCI is not in a position to turn these guys away. They accepted a 25 per cent reduction in consideration on behalf of their shareholders and here comes someone to make their shareholders whole."

Meanwhile BT and MCI announced they had completed a strategic link-up with Portugal Telecom. BT and MCI have paid £74m for a 1.5 per cent stake in Portugal Telecom. The Spanish telecom operator. Telefonica, will take a 3.5 per cent shareholding.

Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, said the shareholding underpinned the three-way alliance that it announced along with MCI and Portugal Telecom Michael Harrison

Azlan, the computer distributor, is preparing to relist its shares after warning that it will go into receivership unless investors approve a £24m rescue rights issue. The company, whose shares were suspended at 555p in June pending an investigation in accounting irregularities, is proposing a two-for-one rights issue at 37p to pull it back from the brink. Barrie Morgans, who took over as chief executive in July, outlined an astonishing catalogue of failures by the old management but said the problems had now been "cleared out",

The investigation pointed to "serious failures of management and internal financial controls... acts of concealment and improper behaviour... strains arising from the rapid growth of the business" and "disregard of generally accepted accounting principles". The failures led to the resignation of Azlan's chairman, chief executive and finance director. Nine other employees face disciplinary action and six have been warned. Adjustments following the investigation meant the company reported losses in the year to April of £14.1m compared to estimates made less than six months ago

Mr Morgans called the events "really fundamental housekeeping errors". He said the company had grown too quickly: "The expansion would have stretched a much bigger company. When the internal financial controls fail, they go very quickly. All this happened in just six months."

He said he was surprised by the depth of the problems. How ever he said the problems were limited to the UK business, just one-third of the total, and Akam, the training business bought recently, was performing very strongly.



**JEREMY** WARNER ON WHY GRANADA HAS RULED OUT A DEMERGER

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# Robinson's Granada decides against demerger

Every year about this time, Granada holds Conglomerates are unfashionable these a get together of senior executives and advisers to thrash out corporate strategy for the year ahead. The coming session will in many respects be an occasion for self congratulation, for the whole group seems to be firing on all cylinders right now and the potential for improvement at Forte, acquired after an acrimonious takeover battle last year, is exceeding everyone's wildest expectations.

Nothing is ever perfect in business, however, and after a spectacular run, the share price has been underperforming these past six months. In part this is because the pace of hotel disposals has been much slower than was promised at the time of the Forte takeover. Some hotels that were ear marked for sale, might now bo

But it is also to do with a lingering concern over where Granada is heading. Nobody can quarrel with performance, which since Gerry Robinson moved into the hot seat in the early 1990s, has been spectacular. Rather it is to do with the shape of the company. Granada is essentially a conglomerate of three parts - its hotel, catering and motorway service station interests, its TV rental interests, and its glamour TV and media companies. Few believe any longer in the old Han-

days and if the City has been prepared to turn a blind eye to the conglomerated nature of Granada thus far, nothing is for

Focus and consolidate; these are the two great corporate mantras of the age. If they were followed at Granada, the group would be breaking itself up into at ast two and possibly three parts.

So could the October strategy meeting bring news of a demerger? The bankers and lawyers who make money out of these things will be disappointed to learn this, but there is virtually no possibility of it. Executives have studied the arguments and pressures for it, and concluded that no benefit would be derived from going down that route. The decision has yet to be taken formally, but effectively it has already been ruled out for the foreseeable future. Should shareholders be concerned about this disregard for fashion, or can Mr Robinson justify his odd-

ball combination of businesses? The Granada chairman is so much admired and well liked in the City that nobody is seriously going to challenge his decision. Even so, some fund managers will feel uncomfortable with the situation. son philosophy, that it is possible to apply with success a common set of management skills across a range of diverse businesses. To the extent that this worked in the past, it was achieved by imposing rigid controls and targets across the group, pretty much regardless of the needs and long term health of its individual

In today's more competitive and globalised markets, this is generally considered a crude and wholly inappropriate approach. Maintaining competitiveness in today's environment requires managers to be highly sensitive to the long term needs of their businesses, and to have a perfect understanding of the markets in which they operate. Plainly a group that is run across a range of industries according to a book of numbers cannot hope to achieve that.

Fund managers have also begun to demand more clarity from companies than can ever be achieved in a conglomerate, where it is often possible to hide the poor performance of one part of the group behind the buoyant performance of another. If there are decisions to be made about which sectors to invest in, it should be the fund manager who is making them, not the corporate executive, who by and

large should be sticking to his knitting. That's the general view, in any case.

All of which rather begs the question of why the City was prepared to back Granada in its bid for Forte when only a couple of years previously the target had been LWT. Beyond a TV in every hotel bedroom, the two businesses could hardly be more unrelated. As it has lost faith, then, with the old conglomerates of the 1980s - Hanson, BTR, BAT Industries the City seems only too happy to support

the creation of another. To some extent, this is explained by the old adage of what goes round comes round. By the time they begun the process of breaking themselves up, both Hanson and BTR were past their sell by date, mature businesses in mature industries, some of them so unrelentingly run for cash over the previous decade that they were all but dead and

Granada, by contrast, is in two of Britain's fastest growing industries, media and leisure, and so far it has not been possible to fault the way it has run either. Forte is turning into a veritable gold mine, while the group's successful bid for digital terrestrial and its continued interest in BSkyB is transforming its media interests into some of the most valuable in

the country.

On the "if it ain't broke, why mend it" philosophy alone, then, there is little case for demerging Granada. There is also plainly a considerable benefit to Granada in size for the sake of it. Without LWT, it would not have been large enough to do Forte. Without the critical mass Granada now processes in both these industries, a whole range of higher risk investment and business opportunities would be closed off. Furthermore, it is not at all clear that demerger of itself does create shareholder value. The performance of Thorn EMI has been little short of disastrous since TV rental was separated from music.

Consistency never was the investment community's strong point. Even as the old style conglomerate has lost its allure, there are certain other types of conglomerate, notably media conglomerates like Lord Hollick's United News and Media, which have become highly fashionable. A conglomerate like Granada would seem to be right on the cusp of the City's tolerance level, but while it continues to pile on value both in media and leisure at the present rate of knots, nobody is in a position to complain.

## Lenders offer unprecedented fixed-rate mortgage deals

Banks and building societies this week launched a host of cheap fixed-rate mortgage deals that could save house buyers thousands of pounds. Andrew Verity examines how lenders are taking advantage of the dramatic fall in longterm interest rates.

Woolwich yesterday cut the interest rate it offerers borrowers for fixed mortgages over five years from 6.99 per cent to 6.79 per cent. Nationwide also announced it had cut its five-year fixed rates by half

Stock Exchange's system.

The agreement means traders will

be able to access both the Tradepoint

and London exchanges from the same

dealing screen for no extra charge. It

should enable Tradepoint to compete

more effectively when the London ex-

The cuts follow a dramatic drop in long-term interest rates, enabling mortgage providers to borrow cheaply and pass on the

National launched an offer of 6.49 per cent, fixed for five years, and cut mortgage arrangement fees to £250 from £395. Northern Rock resoonded a day later by cutting its rates to 6.45 per cent. Until a week ago, very few providers offered rates of less than 7.25 per cent on five-year fixed-rate mortgages.-

Industry observers believe the latest cuts create an unprecedented situation for new borrowers where fixed-rate mortgages are substantially cheaper than those with variabie rates.

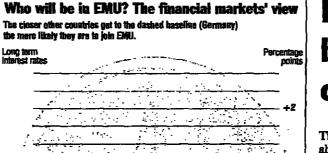
Most variable mortgage

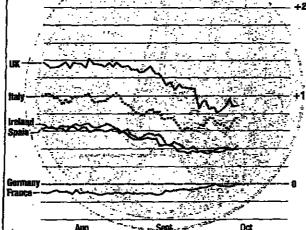
rates now hover between 8.25 and 8.45 per cent. But borrowers can now fix their payments at a rate almost two savings to customers. percentage points below this. Earlier in the week, Abbey With the next move in interest rates expected to be up, the gap is likely to grow further in the short term. Mark Chilton, a mortgage expert at international property

consultants Savills, said: "There is now a stunning differential between fixed and variable rates which may be unprecedented. Every man, woman and child in the country should be looking at this." Mortgage brokers believe

the deals on offer may be so cheap that existing borrowers as well as new borrowers may benefit from taking them up. Past experience in other coun tries, such as the US, indicates that borrowers benefit from switching if fixed rates are more than 1.25 points below variable rates.

The rates may only be on offer for a short time. Mortgage providers set in motion the cheaper deals at the beginning of the week when they could borrow long-term money at a rate of just 6.6 per cent. Longterm interest rates have since risen to more than 6.9 per





TOWARDS EMIL: If the line moves towards the German base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMAI: However, if they think the country won't be in EMIL, that it will have higher initiation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

Mikio Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Greafell Saloman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time: Probability EMU is delayed: Probability EMU never happens: (16% lest week) (5% last week)

### Rate rise boosts chances

The chances of EMU going shead on time have on balance improved in the past week, according to our panel of experts, although the reaction was not unanimous.

The majority view expressed by Julian Jessop at Nikko Europe is that the chances of EMU going ahead on time have increased because the synchronised rise in European interest rates on Thursday confirms the increased political momentum towards a single currency taking effect on schedule, Rate rises also improve the chances of the leading players getting budget deficits below 3 per cent on time.

Capel takes a similar view. But Robert Lind at ABN Amro is concerned about the impact of the fall of Mr Prodi's government on the grounds that Italy is less likely to go ahead.

However, the collapse of the Italian government could increase the chance of a technocratic government being formed which could implement the budget changes which political parties could find impossible to justify to their supporters.

— Clifford German

#### IN BRIEF

#### Tobacco companies settle in first passive smoking case

Tobacco companies have settled the first passive smoking case to be tried in court, it was announced yesterday. The tobacco companies, which were being sued by 60,000 US based flight attendants for \$5bn, agreed to pay legal costs, totalling \$47m, and to establish a \$300m fund to study the effects of passive smoking. The flight attendants claimed that passive smoking on aeroplanes had caused ailments such as heart disease and lung cancer Yesterday's settlement does not mean the end of the road for the tobacco companies. The class action may be over, but passive smokers are still free to pursue individual claims in court.

#### TV industry further in red

Imported television programmes such as Friends and Oprah took Britain's film and television industry further into the red on the balance of payments last year. The total shortfall of £191m between £948m in receipts and just over £1bn in payments made overseas compared with a deficit of £165m in 1995. British film successes overseas, such as Four Weddings and a Fimeral, brought in higher earnings from the North Amersurplus of £91m, compared with a deficit of £10m in 1995.

#### Front-runner for Grosvenor

The Emir of Qatar, Sheik Hamed bin Khalifa Al Thani, has emerged as a front runner to buy the Grosvenor House Hotel from Granada. Though a deal is not expected for several weeks it is understood that Granada is negotiating with the Sheik and one or two corporate bidders over a deal. The hotel, on London's Park Lane, has a book value of £302m though Granada is hoping to secure up to £375m.

#### Nottingham Forest slides

Shares in Nottingham Forest, the first division football club, fell from their placing price of 70p to 61p on their first day of dealings on the Alternative Investment Market. The float raised £2.6m for the club instead of the £3.5m originally hoped for.

#### Ed Wallis

In yesterday's paper we carried a story headlined "Power-Gen succession battle begins as Wallis set to depart. The headline was incorrect. As the text made clear, Mr Wallis has no intention of giving up his position as executive chairman of PowerGen at present and we apologise to him for having suggested otherwise.

#### Golf operator reports fall

PGA European Tour Course, the golf course operator hit by a profits warning in July, reported a sharp fall in first-half profits to £46,000 compared to £1.7m the previous year.

#### Interest charged on fixed rate for five years 0.2 Wootwich Nationwide Northern Rock Abbey National First Mortgage

How mortgage costs are falling

The future of Tradepoint, the elec- change switches from its traditional tronic rival to the London Stock Exmarket-making system to the electronic order-driven format on 20 October. change, looks significantly more assured after Royalblue, the UK's Shares in struggling AIM-quoted Tradepoint, which was rescued from leading trading software provider, the brink of administration in July by said yesterday it would offer free acan emergency cash injection from cess to Tradepoint's order-driven tradventure capitalists, jumped 12.4 per ing system along with the London

cent to 136.5p yesterday. John Hamer, chief executive of Royalblue, said growing customer demand for Tradepoint had prompted it to develop an interface linking Tradepoint into its widely used software package, Fidessa. "This gives Trade-

competition, and should mean extra volume for us," said Mr Hamer.

Free access to Tradepoint system Jardine buys Appleyard for £53m

Royalbiue will take a fee from Tradepoint on each transaction. Although Tradepoint offers advantages over the London order-driven system, principally that it is anonymous and potentially cheaper, at present traders have to use a separate workstation to access Tradepoint.

The deal with Royalblue should make access easier and give Tradepoint wider exposure.

day seized control of Appleyard, the ailing West Yorkshire motor dealers, with a £53m bid. Appleyard's chairman and chief executive, Mike Williamson, has agreed to accept the deal.

· The two businesses are roughly equal in size and the deal will create the biggest single motor dealership in the UK with annual sales of £1.3bn. Jardine is paying 80p a share, a pre-

mium of 21 per cent on the market price of Appleyard shares on Thursday night, but well below the peak of - Sameena Ahmad 92p when Appleyard first emerged as

two businesses were a good fit geographically and Appleyard's VW and Audi dealerships would fit well with Jardine's strength in Fords, Jardine's chief executive, Peter Ward, a former chief executive of Rolls-Royce, said yesterday.

Mr Ward said that Jardine would surrender Appleyard's Scandia lorry franchise in return for a payment of £7.5m and there would be some adjustments in its list of dealerships, but Jardine would keep the Minories Vauxhall business and the contract hire business.

— Clifford German

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Austra	19.977	58432	581		6145	36,094	35,990	
Belgum	58.589 2.2357	2 2 2 2 9 0	221	99 J 1	3793	13769	13723 66423	0.7875 38087
Canada	10813	10.784	10.77	26   6	6710	68613	11222	08312
Denmark	14489.	14456	143		11188	1(199 52415	52242	29978
ECU .	85111	R4852	8435	16 I 3	2507	58895	58488	33572
Falend Rence	9531	9502	944		6801	12483	17422	10000
mance Germany	2539	2.8303	281		7515 7648	277.74	27998	157BS
Greece	44816	44961	452		гоно 7363	7.7473	7.7668	4,4169
Hong Kong	2540	12542	12.5		7302 4626	14517	14608	I 02351
reland	130B2	11075	1100		228	7240	17279	983.81
tely :	2792B	27909	2790		2006	1953	TIBA7	68.544
lecen .	19460	193.50	1913	2   3	1140	31171	31300	17779
Maleysia .	50478	5.0462	5054		7570			44288
Mexico	12.57				727	19891	19623	11263
Vetherla∩ds	31976	31878	3158	- 1 -	449	15498	15479	0.3682
New Zealer	25137	25089	2499 1126		0172	70057	69857	40064
Norwey	11374	11341	2869		792	17864	17769	10158
Postucial `	28839	28596	6058		7505	3.7510	- 3752	21413
SELECT A PARTY	60794	80723	2477	1 12	365	15369	1534	08784
STOCK ONLY	24938 _	24880	7717		672	47065	47792	25647 84365
outh Africa	75653	76191	2382		777 .	477	147,56	43265
Scient	238.52	23912	1220		779	75/03	7.55.55	08312
Sweden	2283	12.255 2.8492	2.328	-   -	559	1,4511	14417	05709
Witzertenc	23599	23492	2320		ÓÓO			ישויים
.s	16210	<u>.</u>		<del></del>				
Other S	pot R	ates					-	
			Sollar	Coun	dτV	Sterling	g · 1	Doltar
Country	Sterling	_				06240		03850
l/gentiniti	1020		000	Omen	_	65,600		40,470
Scazii	17800		992	Pakest		53.978		33300
7m)3 ::	13427	. 82	935	Philip		54934		3.3890
anch Rep	53273	. 32	865	Poland	ī	58999		36398
	55049	. 33	981	Ceter		95158		SB705
igyst Brens	35661	22	200	Pussia South		14768		8100
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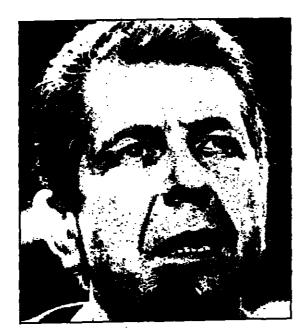
Interest Rates Fed Funds 538% 5.25% Spein Control
3.75% 10-d Repo 500% Switzerland **Bond Yields** 523 000 441 005 449 005 426 004 426 004 426 004 552 122 250 006 502 006 499 005 197 003 201 001 552 006 5 pc drig 5 pc drig 5 pc do 6 5 pc d Money Market Rates Overlight 1 week 1 month 3 months 6 months 1 year 8d Offer 709 736 722 728 703 759 725 731 703 697 713 706 708 706 725 739 734 741 750 756 735 740 753 759 736 709 734 726 747 741 558 565 571 431 444 445 456 459

Source: Bloomberg

Lille Lill	ancia	l Future:	5		P	
Contract_		Settlement	High	Low	Action.	Open Interest
Long Gilt	Dec-97	116.88	11934	16.50	85212	196005
German Bund	Dec-97	102.25	10269	10210	270817	314616
US Long Bond	Dec-97	15.78	~	_	_	_
Hallen Bond	Dec-97	11090	11149	H0.40	108564	121761
Japan Govt Bd	Dec-97	128.63	12675	128.56	587	_
3 Mith Sterling	Dec-97	9254	92.56	92.54	10304	128680
	Mar-98	92.48	92.52	92.48	11520	113257
3 Mth Euromack	Dec-97	9620	9623	9614	119384	325493
	Mar-98	95.91	9595	95.83	108492	296946
3 Mith Eurolina	Dac-97	83 <i>5</i> 9	9370	93.51	36525	108480
	May-88	9431	9445	9419	42887	104342
3 Mith Euroyen	Dec-97	9943	-	~ ·	_	
3 Mth Euroewiss	Dec-87	9793	9797	97.88	28525	85657
	Mar-98	97.72	97.76	97.86	17837	46763
3 MAIN ECU	Dec-97	95.33	95.38	95.29	2935	10951
	Mar-88	95.26	95.32	95.24	1293	6754
FT5E 100	Dec-97	530600	530BQ0	521000	10806	72523
Liffe FT:	SE 10	) Index (	Option			
Settlement Price			- p			
Oct			Nov	Dec	J	ian .
Series Call	imp Vol i	Put imp Voi	Cadi Pu	t Call	Put <u>C</u>	adi Put
51 <b>5</b> 0 ttl	26 2	25 22	200 13	0 257	147 2	99 188
5200 69		#C 20	178 15	0 226	153 2	SP 187
5250 60		75 22	180 15	0 195	188 2	30 205
5300 34		113 19	129 21	Ď 178	204 2	02 250
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Brent Crude(\$/	ъжте!) G	es oil(\$/tonne		nude(\$/barr		
Brent Crude(\$/	Voi IP	E Close Chg	YOU NYM	Last <sup>a</sup> Che	Spot CI	NW Eur
Brent Crude(\$/ \$PE_Last* Chg	Wor IP	E Close Chg	Vol NYM B225 Oct	1960 1960	Spot CI Greatne	F NW Eur 5 20900
Brent Crude (\$/ IPE Last* Chy Nov 2089 -010	Wol IP 8122 Co 7038 No	E Close Chg 1 195.25 0.25 w 185.00 -100	HOL NYM BE25 Oct B247 Nov	1960 1960 2201 -012	Gasoline 9 Nephtra	F NW Eur 25 20900 20900
Brent Crude(%) PE Last" Chy Nov 2089-020 Dec 2085-022	Wol IP 8122 Co 7038 No	E Close Chg	Vol NYM B125 Oct	1960 1960	Spot CI Greatne	F NW Eur 5 20900
Brent Crude(%) PE Last" Chy Nov 2089-020 Dec 2085-022	Wol IP 8122 Co 7038 No	E Close Chg 1 195.25 0.25 w 185.00 -100	HOL NYM BE25 Oct B247 Nov	1960 1960 2201 -012	Spot CI Gleoline ! Naphtre Gazoli	F NW Eur 20900 20900 19850
Brent Crude (\$\) PE Last* Chg Nov 2089 -000 Dec 2065 -012 Jan 2082 -002	Vol IP 8122 Oc 7036 No 1134 De	E Close Chg 1 165.25 0.25 w 165.00 -100 ic 166.90 -0.75	Vol NYM B125 Oct B247 Nov 1854 Dec Jan	1860 1860 2201 -012 2200 -013 2188 -009	Gasoline ( Nephtra Gasoli Freel Oli (	F NW Eur 20900 20900 19850 15%s) 9800
Brent Crude (\$\) FE Last* Chg Nov 2089 0:00 Dec 2065 0:12 Lan 2082 0:02  Commo	Wor IP 8122 Oc 7038 No 1134 De	E Close Chg 1 185% 025 1 18500 -000 1 18500 -075 1 18500 -075	Vel NYM B225 Oct 8247 Nov 1254 Dec Jan Gold	1960 1960 2201 -012 2206 -013 2188 -009	Sport CF Gasoline 9 Nephtre Gasoli Feel Oli (2	F NW Eur 20900 20900 19350 15%s) 9800 at 500pm
Brent Crude(\$) FE Last* Chg Nev 2089-000 Dec 2065-012 Jan 2082-002 Commo	Voi IP 8122 Oc 7038 No 1134 De dity II	E Close Chg 1 85.75 0.25 1 85.75 0.25 1 85.90 100 1 86.90 175 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Yel NYM B125 Oct 9247 Nov 1894 Dec Jan Gold Chg	1960 1960 2201 -012 2206 -013 2168 -009 man Sachs	Spect CI Gasoline 1 Nephtra Gasoli Fuel OII (3 31 Dec	F NW Eur 20900 20900 18650 15641 9800 at 500pm
Brent Crude(\$) FE Last* Chg Nov 2089-000 Dec 2065-012 Lan 2082-082 Commo	Voi IP 8122 Oc 7038 No 1134 De dity II lase dale 970=100	E Close Chg 1 19525 025 1 19525 025 1 19520 -100 1 19620 -175 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Yel NYM B25 Oct 927 Nov 1854 Dec Jan Gold Chg	1980 1980 2201 -012 2200 -013 2188 -009 man Sachs %chg 028	Spot CI Gasoline I Naphina Gasoli Fuel Oil 6 31 Dec 215.26	F NW Eur 2000 2000 18650 15651 9800 as 500pm %chgYTD
Brent Crude(\$) FE Last* Chg Nov 2089-000 Dec 2065-012 Lan 2082-082 Commo	Voi IP 8122 Oc 7038 No 1134 De dity II	E Close Chg 1 18525 025 1 18520 100 1 18500 107 1 18500 1075 1 18500 1075 1 18500 1075 2 18500 1075	Vol NYM 825 Oct 9247 Nov 984 Dec Jan Gold Chig 0,57	1960 1960 2201 -012 2206 -013 2188 -009 man Sachs %chg 028 047	Spot Cf Gasoline Naphtra Gasol Fuel Of 6 31 Dec 215.26 231.23	F NW Eur 20900 20900 19350 15761 9800 at 500pm %chgYTD 4,59 4,77
Brent Crude(\$)  FE Last* Chy Nov 2069-000 Dec 2065-012 Len 2062-002  Commo	Voi IP 8122 Oc 7038 No 1134 De dity II lase dale 970=100	E Close Chg 1 18525 025 1 18526 -125 1 18520 -125 1 18520 -175 1 18520	Vol NYM B225 Oct B247 Nov 1854 Dec Jen Chg 0.57 113 0.38	1887 Chg 1860 1860 2201 -012 2200 -013 2188 -009 man Sachs %chg 028 047 049	Spot Cf Gasoine ( Hephtra Gasoi Feel Of & 31 Dec 215.26 231.23 85.96	F NW Eur 20900 20900 19350 19361 8500 at 500pm %chgYTD 459 477 -827
Brent Crude(\$) FE Last* Chg Nov 2066-000 Doc 2065-002 Lan 2022-002  Commo  index t Agnoultural \$ Enerty \$ \$	Voi IP 8122 Oc 7038 No 1134 De dity I lasse date 970=100 970=100 983=100	E Close Chg 1 18525 025 1 18526 -125 1 18520 -125 1 18520 -175 1 18520	Vol MMM B225 Oct B247 Nov SS4 Dec Jan Chg 0.57 113 0.38 0.04	1860 1860 2201 02 2200 02 2200 03 2188 009 man Sachs %chg 028 047 049 002	Spot Cf Geoline 1 Naphira Gasol Feel Cli & 31 Dec 215.26 231.23 85.96 168.79	5 NW Eur 20900 20900 19650 196
Brent Crude (N) FE Last* Chg Nov 2069-000 Doc 2065-000 Do	Voi IP 8122 Oc 7036 No 1134 De dity II lasse date 970=100 970=100 983=100 977=100	E Close Chg 1 18525 025 1 18520 100 1 18500 107 1 18500 1075 1 18500 1075 1 18500 1075 2 18500 1075	Vol NYM B225 Oct B247 Nov 1854 Dec Jen Chg 0.57 113 0.38	1887 Chg 1860 1860 2201 -012 2200 -013 2188 -009 man Sachs %chg 028 047 049	Spot Cf Gesoine ( Naphira Gasoi Fuel Of G 31 Dec 215,26 231,23 85,86 168,79 191,03	5 NW Eur 20900 20900 18650 18741 8800 25 SAN 200 25 SAN 200 25 SAN 200 26 SAN 200 27 A.77 -8.27
Brent Crude(\$)  FE Last* Chg  Nov 2008-000  Dec 2005-012  Lan 2002-002  COMMOD  Endex  Agracultural Energy  Richelsis  Livestock  18	Voi IP 8122 Oc 7038 No 1134 De dity I lasse date 970=100 970=100 983=100	E Cose Chg 1 195% 025 1 195% 025 1 1950 - 100 1 1950 -	Vol MMM B225 Oct B247 Nov SS4 Dec Jan Chg 0.57 113 0.38 0.04	1860 1860 2201 02 2200 02 2200 03 2188 009 man Sachs %chg 028 047 049 002	Spot Cf Geoline 1 Naphira Gasol Feel Cli & 31 Dec 215.26 231.23 85.96 168.79	5 NW Eur 20900 20900 20900 20905 209

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Akamatik	π HG	1637	1638	600	1644	1645	7	739275	30
Aluminia		1442	1447	800	1470	1472	7	49380	-8
Copper /	١.	2069	2070	-100	2098	2099 620	1 10	341475 120200	65 -17
Leed Nickel		605 6430	607 6440	1000 -12000	619 8530	6540	-120	62136	4
reaccear Ten		5580	5590	-7000	5630	5635	-65	10750	-15
Zinc.		1304	1305	000	1314	1315	2	444800	-2
Pres	cious	Meta	ds						
				- in -			Coins (		
pm, flx/	\$ per 02 C	ev's Yea	ar,a bus	mx/x pe	r oz Day's	Year's	COIRS (	9)	Year
		chg c	ng		chg	chg			cho
Platinum	43000	-400 4	350 Plati	irum 28	510 -215	1740	Krugirani	\$ 334.75	-558
Pallacium	20300	-300 8	525 Pale	adium 12	515 -156	5000	Sove	7625	
Silver		-010	0.17 Silve	<b>S</b> 1	317 -0.06	-001	Nobles	41955	
Gold	32890	-450 -5	285		<b>-</b>		Mapie Le	ef 33916	-548
Agr	icultu	<u></u>						***	5-20pm
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Cocos		Coffee	9	Barley		Potato	P\$	Lge Po	natoe:
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	Ĉ/kome		\$/torne	_	E/tome	UFFE !	C/terme	ATA	\$:25k
	<b>Ĉ/101110</b> 1133.00			_	E/torne 7950	Nov97	C/157719 6200	ATA Nov97	6890
UFFE		LIFFE	\$/tome	LEFFE			-		\$25% \q 6890 883.5
UFFE Dec#7	1133.00	LIFFE Nov97	\$/torne 1615.00	LEFFE!	7950	Nov97	<b>6200</b>	Nov97	6890
UFFE Dec#7 Mar98	1133.00 1155.00	LIFFE Nov97 Janes	\$/torne 1615.00 1630.00	LIFFE! Nov97 Jan98	7950 8200	Nov97 Mar98	6200 8600	Nov97 Feb98	6890 683.5
UFFE Dec#7 Mar98 May98 YoU	1133.00 1155.00 1178.00 4345	LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98	\$/torne 1615.00 1630.00 1640.00 908	LEFFE! Nov97 Jan98 Mar98	7950 8200 8400 72	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98	6200 8600 10800	Nov97 Feb98 Apr98	6890 683.5 689.5
UFFE Dec97 Mar98 May96 Vol: White \$	1133.00 1155.00 1178.00 4345 Sugar*	LIFFE Nov97 Janes Marss Vol: Freigh	\$/lorme 1615/00 1630/00 1640/00 908	LIFTE! Nov97 Jan96 Mar96 Vol: Wheat	7 <u>950</u> 8200 8400 72	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vot: Com*	6200 8800 10900 127	Nover Febss Apres Vol: Soya B	6890 683.5 689.5
UFFE Dec97 Mar98 Mar98 Vol: White S	1133.00 1155.00 1178.00 4345 Sugar*	UFFE Nov97 Jane8 Mar98 Vol: Freigh	\$/torme 16:5:00 16:3000 16:40:00 96:8 t \$0:6:4:pt	LIFFE! Nov87 Jan98 Mer98 Vol: Wheat	7950 8200 8400 72 Seame	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vot: Com*	62.00 88.00 108.00 127 ents/bshi	Nover FebS8 Apr98 Vol: Soya B	6890 683.5 689.5 <b>earns*</b>
UFFE Dec97 Mar98 May98 Vol: White S LIFFE Qc197	1133.00 1155.00 1178.00 4345 Sugar* Shores 31650	LIFFE Nov97 Janes Mar98 Vol: Freigh LIFFE Oct87	\$/torne 1615.00 1630.00 1640.00 968 f \$060xpl 1659.00	LIPPE ! Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: Wheat LIPPE Nov97	7950 8200 8400 72 Storne 8625	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vot: Com* CBOT C Dec87	6200 8600 10800 127 ents/bshi 268.25	Nov97 Feb98 Apr98 Vol: Soya B C80T S Nov97	6890 683.5 689.5
UFFE Dec97 Mar98 May96 Vol: White S LIFFE Qc197 Dec97	7133.00 7165.00 1178.00 4345 Sugar* Shome 31660 305.50	LIFFE Nov97 Janes Mar98 Vol: Freigh LIFFE Oct87 Nov87	\$/torne 16:5.00 16:30.00 16:40.00 96:8 f \$0:60:pl 16:20.00 16:05.00	LIFFE ! Nov97 Jan98 Mer98 Yol: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 Jan98	7950 8200 8400 72 Storne 8625 88.25	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vot: Com* CBOT C Dec87 Mar98	6200 8600 10800 127 erres/bshi 268.25 29700	Nover FebS8 Apr98 Vol: Soya B	6890 683.5 689.5 <b>earns*</b>
LIFFE Dec97 Mar98 May96 Vol: White S LIFFE Qe197 Dec97 Mar96	1133.00 1155.00 1178.00 4345 \$ugar* \$forms 31660 305.50 311.70	LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: Freight LIFFE Octs7 Nov97 Jan98	\$/forme 16/5.00 16/3.00 16/4.00 968 \$ \$0/6xpi 16/3.00 15/2.00 15/2.00	LIFFE ! Nov87 Jan98 Mer98 Yol: Wheat LIFFE Nov87 Jan98 Mer98	7950 8200 8400 72 Storne 8625 8625 9025	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vot: Cern* CBOT C Gecs7 Mar98 Mary88	6200 8600 10800 127 ents/bshi 268.25	Nov97 Feb98 Apr98 Vol: Soya B CBOT S Nov97 Jan98	6890 683.5 689.5 689.5 688.6* 654.bsh
UFFE Dec97 Mar98 May96 Vol: White S LIFFE Qc197 Dec97	7133.00 7165.00 1178.00 4345 Sugar* Shome 31660 305.50	LIFFE Nov97 Janes Mar98 Vol: Freigh LIFFE Oct87 Nov87	\$/torne 16:5.00 16:30.00 16:40.00 96:8 f \$0:60:pl 16:20.00 16:05.00	LIFFE ! Nov97 Jan98 Mer98 Yol: Wheat LIFFE Nov97 Jan98	7950 8200 8400 72 Storne 8625 88.25	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vot: Corn* CBOT C Dec87 Mar98	6200 8600 10800 127 ents/bshi 268.25 29700 30200	Nov97 Feb68 Apr98 Vol: Soya B C80T S Nov97 Jan98 Mar98	689.0 683.5 689.5 689.5 654.bsh 23.0 21.2
UFFE Decilion Mary8 Mary8 Vol: White S LIFFE Quist Decilion Vol: Mary8 Vol: Mary8 Vol:	1133.00 1155.00 1178.00 4345 \$ugar* \$forms 31660 305.50 311.70	LIFFE Nov97 Janes Merse Vol: Freight LIFFE Octs7 Nov97 Jense Vol:	\$/forme 16/5.00 16/3.00 16/4.00 968 \$ \$0/6xpi 16/3.00 15/2.00 15/2.00	LIFFE ! Nov87 Jan98 Mer98 Yol: Wheat LIFFE Nov87 Jan98 Mer98	7950 8200 8400 72 Storne 8625 8625 9025	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Vot: Cern* CBOT C Gecs7 Mar98 Mary88	6200 8600 10800 127 ents/bshi 268.25 29700 30200	Nov97 Feb68 Apr98 Vol: Soya 9 CSOT S Nov97 Jan98 Her98 Vol:	689.0 683.5 689.5 689.5 654.bsh 23.0 21.2
LIFFE Dec87 Mar98 May98 Vol: White S LIFFE Qe87 Dec87 Mar98 Vol:	113300 115500 117800 4345 Sugar* Slove 31660 30550 3170 1068	LIFFE Nov97 Jan88 Mar98 Voi: Freight LIFFE Octs7 Nov97 Jan88 Voi:	\$/come 185.00 163.000 164.000 968 \$ \$060cpt 169.00 150.00 93	LIFFE Nov67 Jan98 Wol: Wheek LIFFE Nov67 Jan98 Mar98 Vol:	7250 8200 8400 72 Storre 9625 8825 9025 758	Nov97 Nar98 Apr98 Vot: Com* CBOT C Decs7 Mar98 Mar98 Vot:	6200 8800 10800 127 ents/bshi 28825 29700 30200 0	Nov97 Feb98 Apr98 Vol: Soya B CBOT S Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol:	6890 683.5 689.5 689.5 654 bshi 23.0 21.2 28
UFFE Dec87 Mar98 May98 Vol: White S LIFFE Ces97 Dec87 Vol: Oth	113300 116500 117800 4345 \$ugar* \$home 31660 30550 3120 1088 er \$0	LIFFE Nov97 Janes Marss Voi: Freight LIFFE Ocist Nov97 Janes Voi: (CME)	\$/torne 185,00 183,000 1840,00 908 \$ \$0,000 pt 169,00 150,00 152,00 93	LETTE : Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: Wheek LIFFE Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: 6702	7950 8200 8400 72 Storne 9625 8825 9025 768	Nov97 Mar98 Apr98 Voi: Corn* CBOT C Dec97 Mar98 Mary98 Voi:	6200 8800 10800 127 ents/bshi 28825 29700 30200 0	Nover Febres Apres Volt. Soya Bi CROT S Nover Janes Mares Volt.	6890 683.5 689.5 689.5 654 boh 23.0 21.2 28 5.36pr 7900
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THE SATU 11 00



'I had a pleasant, confessional voice when I began, and then terrible things happened to me, like 50,000 cigarettes ...' Leonard Cohen emerges from his Zen retreat to give a rare interview to Tim de Lisle

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The Independent and Independent on Sunday are giving you the opportunity to enjoy Sunday lunch at Mezzo. From just £10 you can enjoy a 2 course lunch, or for £17.50 a 2 course dinner. Every Independent diner will also receive a complementary glass of Champagne.

The Independent diner who makes the reservation, and all their guests will be able to choose a starter and main course, or main course and desert from the specially prepared Independent menu. Alternatively, you can have a 3 course lunch for £13.50 or a three course dinner for £21.50. The promotion is available on any Sunday until November 30th.

#### HOW TO BOOK

Phone Mezzo Downstairs in advance on 0171 314 4000 to make your reservation, identifying yourself as an Independent diner. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. To participate in the offer, simply telephone Mezzo Downstairs direct to make your table reservation, identifying yourself as an Independent diner. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in the promotion 2. Pre - booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability. 3. Diners will not be entitled to participate in the offer if they have not made a prior reservation. 4. The lunch offer is valid every Sunday until November 30th at Mezzo Downstairs. 5. The offer entitles the Independent diner and all members of their booking to a 2 course lunch for £10 or a two course dinner for £17.50 against a specially prepared menu comprising of 6 starters and 6 main courses, or a 3 course lunch for £13.50 or 3 course dinner from £1.50 against a specially prepared menu comprising 6 starters, 6 main courses and 6 deserts. The menu may change from time to time during the course of the promotion. 6. The offer entitles each person in the booking to a free glass of champagne. 7. The cost of the meal includes VAT and excludes other drinks, coffee/tea. A discretionary service charge of 12.5% will be added to each bill. 8. The offer is exclusive to Independent readers and this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is non transferable. 9. Mezzo restaurant trading terms and conditions apply. Promoter: The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL.

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The Mezzo Cookbook is available to readers of the Independent and Independent on Sunday at the special price of £20 (rrp £25).

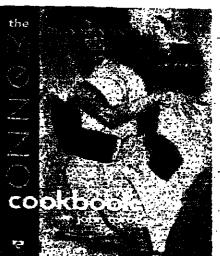
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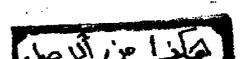
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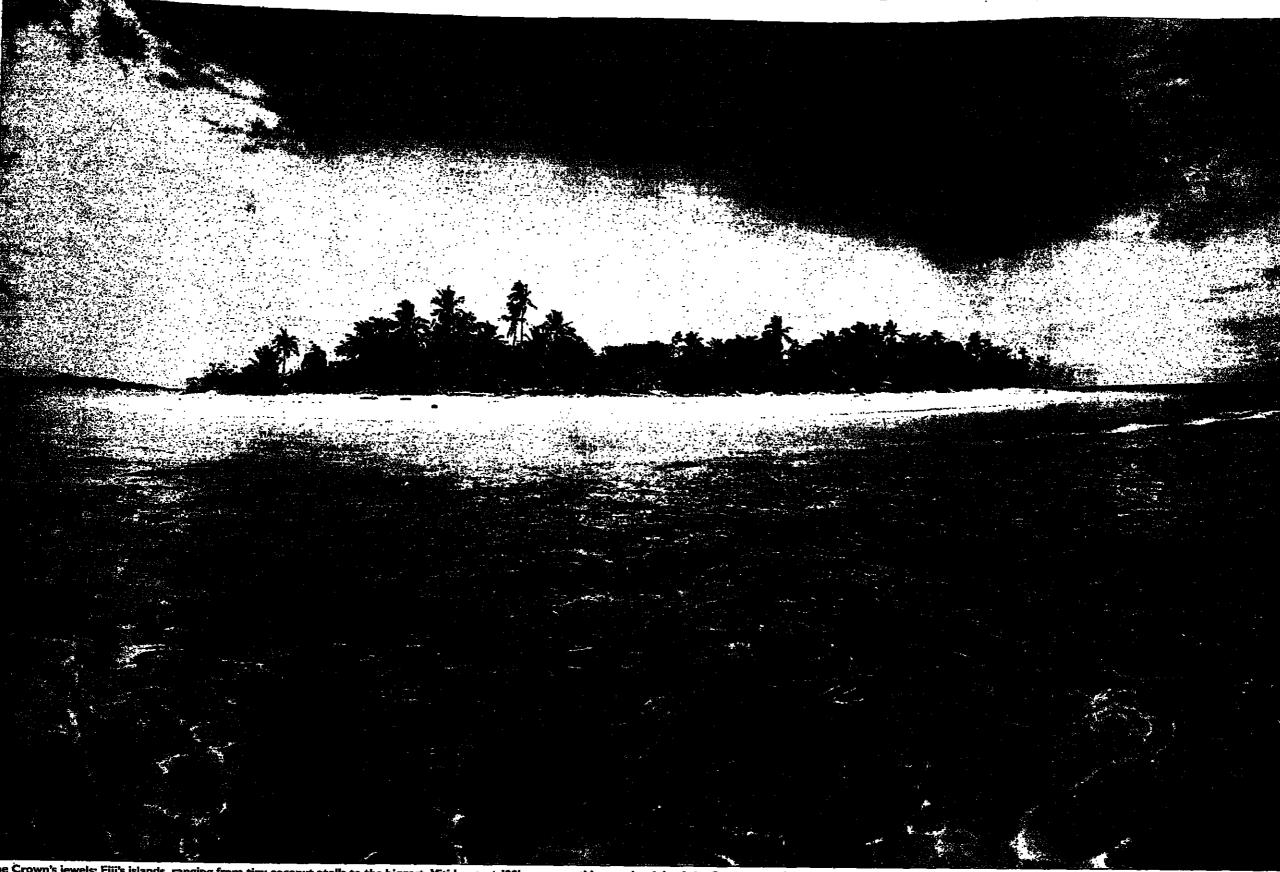
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Independent on Sunday



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The Crown's jewels: Fiji's islands, ranging from tiny coconut atolls to the biggest, Viti Levu, at 100km across, this month rejoined the Commonwealth

Photograph: Robert Harding

# Dream lands

The inhabitants of Fiji's 1,000 islands once ate visitors from the West; now they greet them with open smiles. Ging Cowen checks out the reality of paradise, while overleaf we take a tour of the other specks of land that dot the vast Pacific Ocean.

I had thought Fiji was just an island in the South Pacific, with the kind of distant nonchalance that sees Tahiti as little more than a Gauguin painting on the wall of some metropolitan museum. Fiji islands number, in fact, about 1,000, from tiny, coconutpalmed jewels set in the blue, to Viti Levu - big Fiji - around 100 kilometres across.

Geographically, Fiji straddles the 180th meridian (as far around the globe from Greenwich as you'll get); anthropologically, the islands mix Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia, and aeronautically, they intersect the main American-Australian flight path - providing, for me, touchdown on a round-the-world ticket.

But where, precisely to go in Fiii? There was a daunting smorgasbord of potential idylls - enhanced by cowrie necklaces, hibiscus blooms behind the ear, mile-wide smiles and "bula!", the ubiquitous, genuine call of welcome. The friendliness of Fijians is infectious.

Odd, this, from a race of warriors once famous for cannibalism. But then, as Tom Stoppard once put it, "Certainly a tribe which believes it confers honour on its elders by eating them is going to be viewed askance by another which prefers to put them in a little bungalow somewhere." Know who you prefer? From the Nadi airport I shared an old Leyland bus with some modern-day Fiji warriors - a rugby team. They dropped me at the turning to Natadola Beach Hotel. Brad, their coach, insisted it had the best beach in Fiji, and had booked me a room on his mobile.

So I walked down a dirt track to a glor-

young village boy on a horse, galloping wildly bareback. A very private resort it was, too, with a shaded pool and frogs in the garden at night,

The next morning I took an early ride, cooled by a light shower of rain which cast a perfect rambow in an arch across the bay. There were ultramarine starfish in the shallow waters, and great white cumuli massing on the flat, ocean horizon.

Then I set out to explore the capital. Suva is an appealing, old colonial city (Fiji being a British protectorate from 1874 to 1987 -



ious sweep of white sand, empty but for a and having very recently rejoined the Commonwealth). I had been warned by a friend that "it pisses down" there. It did. I took shelter in the local market where tables were laden with tropical fruits and waka, the dried roots of the pepper plant so essential to Fijian culture in the form of kava, a mildly soporific drink that is shared at ceremonial times. It was probably drunk as an accompaniment to Reverend Thomas Baker, the missionary who ended up as a cannibal feast.

A touching display in the Fiji museum in Suva shows Baker's Bible, next to the fork used to eat him and the bowl that served him up. Also on display are the remains of his boots - with two squashed soles. He had such small feet; I wonder who ate them.

Levuka, the one-time capital, is a 12minute flight from Suva over a luminous, aquatic palette and down on to a lick in the jungle, between volcanic peaks, on the island of Ovalau. There's a bumpy, scenic drive into town. The waterfront is lined with a string of old clapboard buildings. A tunacanning factory, with an ecological blind eye, provides the community's main economy.

There are myriad churches, including the Sacred Heart whose bright green neon cross guides ships into the port, and whose bells ring the hour twice. Levuka had a rampant history that is now reduced to little more than a few backwater ripples of gossip. A century ago, such was its reputation that ships' captains are said to have been able to navigate into port following rum bottles floating out on the tide. Now there's the faded Ovalau Club, a Masonic lodge, a couple of restaurants and a few rather ramackle hotels, including the Royal.

This is a masterpiece of unmodernised bedrooms (Somerset Maugham stayed in No 10), with an empty billiard room and a dining-room that is always laid up, but has the air of never really expecting to serve anyone.

The place is magical. And the longer you stay (I twice postponed my flight out), the more little paradises you discover, such as Devokula, the dream of Jeremiah Tuku Tuku, a Fijian of disarming simplicity.

He returned to his native village (an hour's drive out of Levuka) after working in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, because he had a vision - to create what is now a small settlement of beauty, abundance and peace. Devokula is a youth project that aims to preserve traditional Fijian values and understanding of the land for future generations. Set on a hillside of wild guava trees running down to a black sand beach. it is a place where time stands still. Here, Jeremiah believes, the world will come to rest.

If you want a straightforward return to Fiji, Air New Zealand charges £1,124 including tax, for travel in October. Discount agents such as Trailfunders (0171-938 3366) offer lower fares. A better plan may be to buy a return ticket to New Zealand, or a roundthe-world trip; Gina Cowen's high-season circumnagivation cost £1.085, including tax, through Trailfinders. She paid F\$200 (£115) per night at the Natadola Beach Resort near Nadi airport (00 679 721000); at the Royal Hotel, Levuka, Ovalau (00 679 440024). she paid F\$15 (£9) for a single room.

#### INSIDE

TRAVEL 3/Jumbo city: Seattle's Boeing Museum

5/City break: Stockholm

**LEISURE** 12/Canyon abseiling

**SPORT** Rome showdown: Glenn Moore, lan Ridley, Guy Hodgson and Keith Elliott look forward to England's big match

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The

# CALDER

When a Citroën 2CV overtook the Eurostar train somewhere near Maidstone, the British contingent buried heads in newspapers and pretended that a woefully short-sighted transport policy was nothing to do with

If you have not yet travelled on a Channel Tunnel train from Paris to London, this is how it goes: Paris to Calais, 186mph all the way (that is not a figure you need to remember, the "train captain" will remind you of it in a tone only one stop short of an outright gloat about French supremacy). Calais to Folkestone, circa 100mph, now that the fire damage has been repaired. Folkestone to London - whatever speed Railtrack will allow it to crawl through Maidstone, Otford and Penge on lines built 150 years ago. Don't expect anything in three figures.

Aboard the 6.37am grande vitesse from Gare du Nord to Waterloo, about the only kind of vehicle that didn't overtake us on the British stretch was a milk float.

This was my first trip on Eurostar, despite my living five minutes' walk from the terminal at Waterloo. In the three years since services began, I have always been able to find an air fare to Brussels or Paris for less than the cost of the train. (Since we pay the full price for all travel, this is an important consideration). But finally I bit the £119 bullet train. And a most pleasant journey it was, too, despite some imaginative prices in the buffet; not even British Rail dared to charge 80 pence for a packet of crisps. But I challenge the received wisdom that city-centre-to-city-centre journeys are faster by train than by plane.

I reckon it is possible to travel from any point in London to any point in Paris or Brussels more quickly by air than by rail. People who say "Oh, but Eurostar takes only three hours from the middle of London to the middle of Paris' conveniently overlook the fact that you have to check in for Eurostar at least 20 minutes ahead, and that neither Waterloo nor Gare du Nord could be described as being the centre of its respective capital, except by an over-enthusiastic estate

To give Eurostar the benefit of the doubt. though, let's assume that they are. I still reckon it is possible to get from London Waterloo to Paris Gare du Nord by air, using ordinary public transport. And to back up the claim I've put Air Miles where my mouth is, and have bought two return tickets to Paris, travelling in a couple of weeks' time. My colleague Harriet O'Brien will take the train. She has nominated the days and departure times: we shall depart simultaneously from the Euroat Waterloo ne noon. The slowest one to reach the Gare du Nord buys dinner.

Speed isn't everything, though, and we shall also evaluate the quality of our journeys. So each of us has a checklist of things to achieve: go for a walk, make a friend and have an exotic drink. Trickiest of all, we also have to write our accounts of the journey in real

The train I caught was about 10 minutes late, which in the operator's books makes it on time. One of Eurostar's advertising boasts is punctuality - that six out of seven of its services arrive at the appointed time. But when you look more closely at the statistics, you learn that a train is defined as "on time" if it is no more than 15 minutes late. This is the same definition of punctuality as used by airlines, but we travellers are not allowed such latitude. Try turning up 15 minutes late for a plane or train, and see if the reciprocal reasoning works.



# Drops in the ocean

Think about the land surfaces of the globe added together. The Pacific Ocean is even bigger; it also happens to be twice the size of the puny Atlantic. Land , breaks through the deep, vast blue so rarely that these freckles seem especially precious, but now the Pacific Islands are at risk of disappearing. As 'The Independent' reported yesterday, if global warming continues at the present rate these tiny dots could be ed. Yet for the r they remain idyllic, as Cothy Packe discovers while navigating her way round a short list of these ocean jewels.

Tahiti

Largest of the Windward Islands, one of the Society Islands, and part of French Polynesia. Tahiti is simply the best known island in the south Pacific. Land of Gauguin and Mutiny on the Bounty, it is shaped like a crepe pan with a stubby handle, or a flatfish with a blobby tail, depending on whether you emphasise the French or Polynesian culture. It became a French protectorate in the middle of the last century, when Britain failed to help the formidable Queen Pomare. Descendants of the royal house still live on Tahiti as ordinary citizens.

Once this was the land of dark-eyed girls in grass skirts; nowadays the "primitive simplicity" which first attracted Tahiti's adopted son is mainly found in the Paul Gauguin museum on the south-east side of the island. Down here is the South Pacific of legend: palm trees, a beach barbecue beats anything you can

fresh, and the traffic will make you feel you are on the périphérique. But instead of Paris-Match, a black pearl makes a longer here than anywhere else. more authentic souvenir.

Raratonga From the minute your jumbo jet touchblue water, coral reefs. And don't miss es down in Raratonga in the middle of the fresh fish on sale by the roadside; the night, you know you are in paradise. The island's whole population will beeat in any of the fancy restaurants. The there to serenade you with local songs capital. Papeete, will appeal if you like and garland you with flowers. This feels France. Here the breakfast baguettes are like the end of the world - which in a

sense it is; it's only just east of the International Date Line, so yesterday goes on

This is the largest of the Cook Islands; it is lush, volcanic, with brightly coloured birds and an overpowering smell of jasmine. A bus will take you around the island; if you want to get into the interior, you can walk to a high point known as the Needle, which can be a nerve-racking trip, particularly after heavy rain.

There are plenty of opportunities for

snorkelling and other water sports, but if you want to feel like a real Cook Islander, spend a morning at the cultural village. Here you will discover 101 uses for a coconut, from mosquito coils to fishing nets. If you want to see how to cook. with it, though, go to the Flametree restaurant to eat some of the most delicious food in the Pacific.

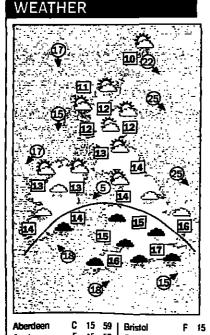
#### Kiribati

The local pronunciation, "Kiribas", may tell you that this group of islands was once known as the Gilberts. This is one of the remoter parts of the world, completely inaccessible from anywhere youmight want to start out from. The group totals 33 atolls and islands, including Kiris Tarawa, a wishbone-shaped conglomeration of coral islands, threaded together on the southern side by a road running along the lagoon. The gaps along the northern shore mean that to get from one end to the other you will have to get your feet wet.

This is the ultimate peaceful retreat, but there is a price to pay for being far from the madding crowd. The simple life can be primitive - the sun and the mosquitoes are vicious, sanitation is basic, and if you get ill, don't expect to find a well-stocked chemist.

The variety of fish caught around the . islands is magnificent, although supplies of other food are limited. Any meal should be washed down with the local toddy - sap from the coconut palm either drunk as it comes, or boiled and fermented for a few days to make it reassuringly alcoholic.

# FRENCH POLYNESIA COOK IS NEW CALEDONIA AUSTRALIA<sup>\*</sup> PACIFIC OCEAN NEW ZEALAND 1000 miles



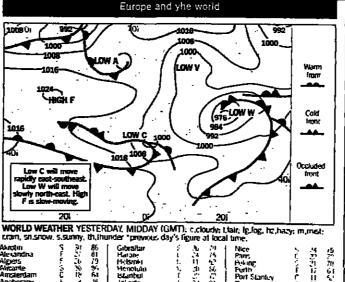
The British Isles General summary and outlook

Rain will already be in south-west England at the start of the day and this will quickly sweep east to affect most of England and Wales before the day is over. The rain will become heavy in many parts before easing everywhere during the evening. The bulk of northern England will miss the rain as will Scotland and Northern Ireland but there may be the odd shower in northern Scotland although all of these areas will see some decent spells of sunshine.

It will be a chilly day across the country with a brisk west to north-westerly wind making it feel even colder. Many parts will be dry and sunny to start the day and will continue to see sunny spells throughout. However, there will be showers in Scotland and these will be locally heavy and prolonged. By the afternoon a few showers may also turn up in northern England and Northern Ireland with the sunshine becoming more limited.

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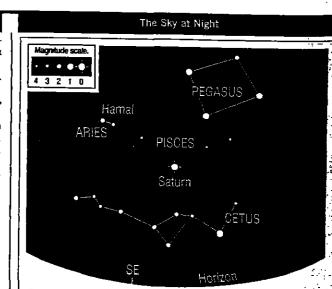
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Roadworks at Killingworth. West Yorks, M1 J47, Major lang-term Bucks, M40 Ha-3, Rendworks with

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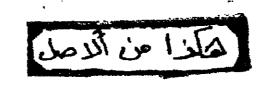
Out and about with AA Road-watch call 0336 401 for the talest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association Calls clumped at 50p per moute at all times inc VAT).

Sun rises 7:17am Sun sets 6:16pm Full Moon: October 16



Saturn is in the constellation Pisces and can be seen in the south-east during evenings this week. This chart is for 11pm BST tonight (11 October)

As the Cassini/Huygens spacecraft sits expectantly on its Tiran IV/Centaur rocket at Cape Canaveral, ready to be hurtled into space next week at the start of a seven-year odyssey, its unsuspecting target - the planet Saturn - stands in full view throughout the night. Saturn was at opposition yesterday. Its position in space was diametrically opposite the Sun's and it lay due south at midnight (GMT). The current distance to Saturn is about 780 million miles. more than eight times the distance to the Sun. Saturn will remain bright and well-placed for observation for some weeks to come. It lies in Pisces, an area of sky devoid of significantly bright stars, Saturn rises tonight at 6.20pm BST and sets in the morning at 6.10am. It will be due south at 11.45pm. Beware confusion with Jupiter, which is brighter, lower and further to the west.



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# The experts said it would never fly

With the largest shed in Christendom and a debt the size of Brazil's, Boeing's staff sketched an outline on the back of an envelope; 75,000 engineering drawings later ... and the rest is the sort of history that comes to life in Seattle's Museum of Flight. Simon Calder reports.

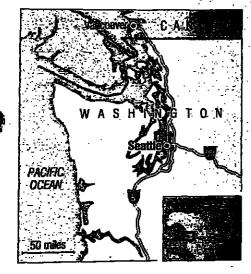
the state of the

"These men will not be hindered from accomplishing at their best speed the distance which they have to go, either by snow or rain or heat or darkness of night." When Herodotus wrote these words, around 450BC, he was referring to the Persian postal system. Nonetheless, the world's biggest plane maker has pinched the lines to set the tone for its corporate history.

You probably arrived in Seattle aboard a If you were lucky enough to secure a window seat, you may have noticed an extra runway. Busy with executive jets and planes straight off the production line, this is the Boeing test facility. Between it and the Pacific stands a big. bright building, as clean as a new Jumbo. Return your seat to the upright position and stand by for the Museum of Flight. (That's its official name, though everyone calls it the Boeing Museum. The absence of any reference to Boeing's main competitor, Airbus, emphasises that this is a one-company venue.)

If any innovation has defined our epoch, it is surely air travel. Until three years into the 20th century, powered flight was a dream. Yet three years from the end of the millennium, flying has become both humdrum and thoroughly liberating. The average British worker needs to labour for a mere fortnight to fly clean around the world - an achievement which is technologically and socially amazing, but which has become so commonplace that airlines are reduced to competing against each other on the quality of their in-flight films and the width of their stewardesses' smiles. The company that helped bring this about is based a handy 10-minute bus ride from Seattle's international airport. With the small change from selling a few Jumbo jets, Boeing has helped to establish the Museum of Flight.

The American brothers Orville and Wilbur



after their achievement at Kitty Hawk in 1903, Europe accelerated in the race for the skies. So the first tranche of the museum's chronology is Eurocentric, and reveals secrets such as that the Dutch aircraft firm Fokker was first based in Schwerin, eastern Germany; it moved to Holland after the Second World War.

US civil aviation really took off 70 years ago this month, with the first international flight hy an American airline. Pan Am took off from Key West, Florida, destination Havana, Amid the many competing aircraft manufacturers, Boeing made its name with the 247, and its first manufacturing facility was right here, in the carefully preserved Red Barn. Today, it looks barely large enough to assemble an Airfix kit.

Regular, reliable transoceanic travel began in 1939 with scheduled transatlantic flights. However, the two most obvious and glamorous destinations, London and Paris, were not on on the first Thursday evening of the month.

the route map. Instead the flight began in Marseille, hopped down to Lisbon and then across to the Azores before reaching New York.

The first commercial jet flight by a US airline, Pan Am, took place 20 years later, when a Boeing 707 flew from New York to Paris, By this time Britain's disastrous first-generation Cornet had suffered a series of fatigue-related crashes. The British retired hurt from the cutting edge of aviation,

The fickle nature of air travel was demonstrated when, two decades later, that same Boeing 707 was pressed into service for British package tourists travelling with the budget airline Dan-Air. It is rumoured that Pan Am tried to buy the 707 back from Dan-Air to put it into its own museum. The British charter airline refused. Both airlines then went bust.

If you have visited the air museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire, you will know that crawling all over the aircraft is part of the fun. At the 747 - homeward bound to the city of its birth. Museum of Flight, the planes are mostly kept at wing's length. Cold War relics such as the B-52 are fenced off. As on the average flight, the intention seems to be to maintain a feel-good. no-fear ambience. So the thousands killed in air crashes hardly figure, nor do the hundreds of thousands massacred in bombing raids. There is mention of a Kamikaze plane, but this one does not indicate suicidal tendencies when applied to air travel. In 1937, the name (which translates as "Divine Wind") was applied to a Mitsubishi Ki-15, a civilian aircraft that flew from Tokyo to London in 51 hours in 1937.

> The museum is not without humour. It reveals that the first 747 simulators were mounted on top of a truck to get pilots used to the extra height of these revolutionary aircraft. The most amusing relic is the Aerocar, a Fifties idea to make a plane that converts to a car (or vice versa). Wings, tail and propeller are bolted on to what looks strangely like an aeronautic Renault 5. It does fly, but commercially the concept never took off.

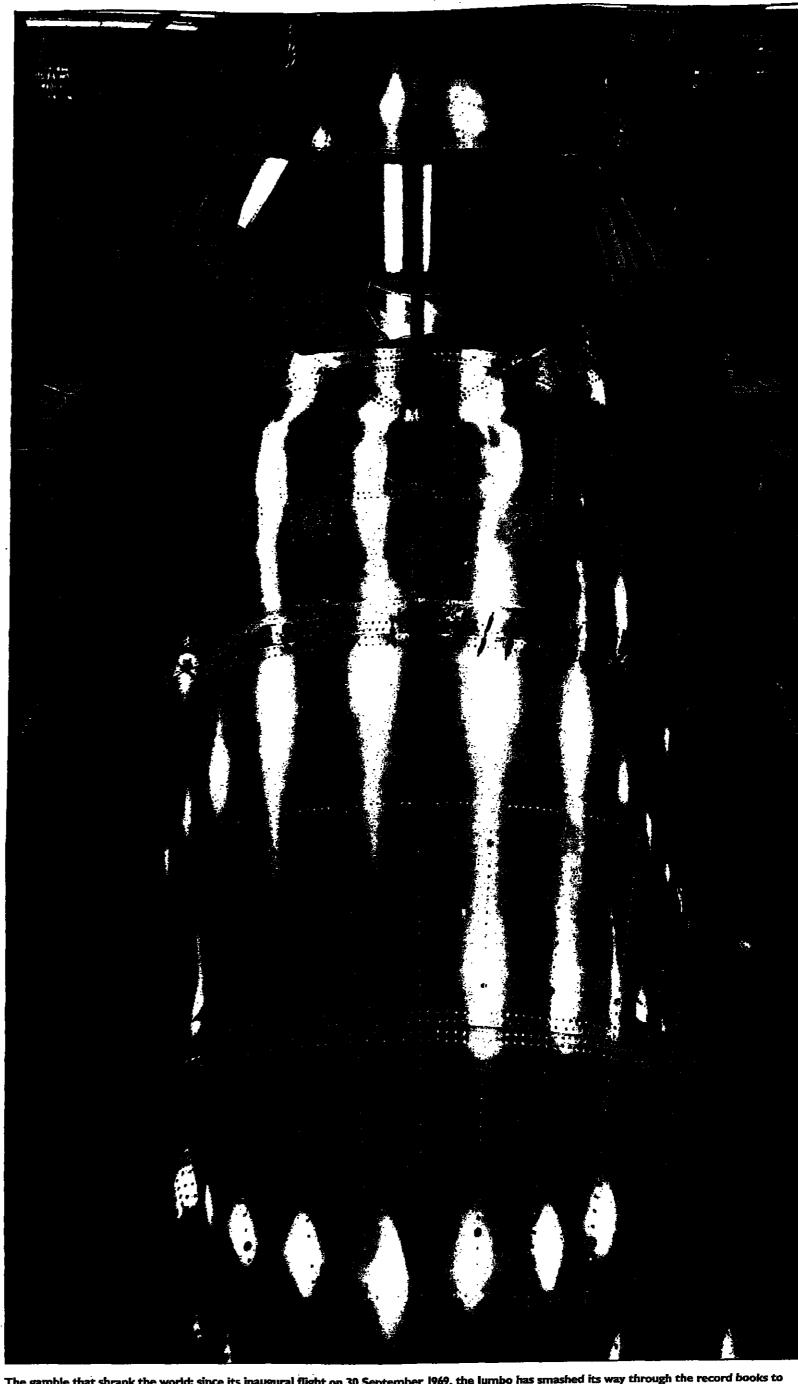
Besides the collection of aircraft (and imposters), the Museum of Flight has a livelier repertoire of films than any in-flight programme. Many of them are techy, Technicolor tearjerkers from the pull-focus school of clichés; the strongest suit is devoted to the exploration of space. "The dream of flight" is a triumphalist yet witty look at the space race, Wright may have pioneered powered flight, but and touches upon the extraordinary spirit of the Sixties, an era in which almost every scientist and engineer appears to chain-smoke.

Early footage takes you through Sputniks to Muttniks, as the early Russian space experiments using dogs were called by Nasa. The Soviet Union won the opening heats of the space race, with the launch of the first manued space flight in 1961. "I looked and looked, but I couldn't see God," Yuri Gagarin said when he returned from his day trip to space. Scientists working for Nasa were deeply alarmed. "When we land on the moon, we'll have to go through Russian customs," commented Wernher von Braun. Facing headlines such as "Reds beat US into space", President Kennedy made his reckless promise to get a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

We were heroes because we volunteered to take the place of chimpanzees," observes one astronaut wryly. "In my book that doesn't make me a hero." The fact that the Apollo XI astronauts had only seven seconds of fuel in reserve when they landed on the moon in 1969 persuades you that heroism was as important as oxygen for the space pioneers. . .

Shortly before Neil Armstrong took his small step came the first commercial flight of a 747. A month after the moon walk, Seattle lad Jimi Hendrix terrified the Woodstock crowd with a particularly angry version of "Purple Haze". It's not yet the company song at Boeing, the aircraft maker based in his home town, but it should be - if only for the perfect tag: "'Scuse me while I kiss the sky".

Simon Calder paid £275 for a return flight to Montreal on Air Canada, booked through Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000) and reached Seattle on a Canadian airpass, £199 from AirPass Sales (01737 555300). The Museum of Flight (001 206 764 5720) opens daily; admission \$8 (£5), free



The gamble that shrank the world: since its inaugural flight on 30 September 1969, the Jumbo has smashed its way through the record books to Photograph: Jose Azel/Coplorifid become the greatest utilitarian alreraft of all time

# If a kid has a guitar in his hand, it means he don't have a gun in his hand'

The land south of Memphis is at the mercy of a mighty river. Matthew Brace continues his Mississippi series with a visit to the birthplace of the Delta Blues.

We sat out on Panny Mayfield's porch in the warm Southem evening: Joel, Julian, John, Miss Laura, Panny and me. On a similarly fragrant night 70 years ago Tennessee Williams sat here, too. He lived just up the street and knew the owners, and would pop over for dinner and inspiration.

This was Clarksdale. Mississippi, a small town on the Delta. When Southern folk talk about the Delta they don't mean the area south of New Orleans, where the mighty Mississippi empties into the Gulf of Mexico at the end of its

2.500-mile journey. Rather, they refer to a flat pan stretching south from Memphis, Tennessee, to the Civil War battle site at Vicksburg.

The Delta is the home of the Blues, the music that grew out of the slave chants in the cotton fields and later inspired rock 'n' roll and just about every other kind of modern music. I'd broken my Mississippi journey and jumped ship to pay homage to the devil's music.

I met Panny, a journalist, at the 20th Delta Blues Festival in Greenville. We were at the side of the stage, sweltering in 99 degrees of soupy heat, trying to photograph the veteran harmonica player Willie Foster, who writhed and twitched in his wheelchair as he blew for the crowd. She insisted I go to Clarksdale the next day to see the Delta

Blues Museum, and stop by her house. We ate beef, pasta and

okra stew, drank dark beer and chatted, Miss Laura (Panny's daughter) and John (the museum's curator) rocked on the swing seat; Joel and Julian (work experience interus at the museum) lolled in their chairs. John and I discussed our beloved river. When he is not working at the museum, John runs wilderness canoe excursions for hardy tourists, sleeping and eating out on sandbars and islands.

· For him, the Mississippi is a spiritual thing. "I get a feeling of closeness to God and closeness to Nature." he said. "It's always articulating new shapes and forming new meanders." Many older Delta folk

would rather forget the river's force and unpredictability. In 1927, before embankments

were built, the Mississippi flooded spectacularly. Its banks burst and the floodwater formed an inland waterway 1,000 miles long and 150 miles wide. A million people were displaced. So great was the deluge, it forced the Ohio and Yazoo to flow backwards for two days. A 12ft wave swept up the Yazoo, swamping all in its

"You must respect the river." Those words resounded around Mark Twain's head when he was training to become a riverboat pilot. Across town, Evelyn

Turner was opening up the Crossroads Club for a night of beer and Blues. This was an upmarket juke joint. The jukes were boozy, tumbledown shacks where upand-coming Bluesmen would play for free. Here, as the

sell your eternal soul to the devil in return for the ability to play faultless Blues guitar.

But in Evelyn's club the jukebox worked if you slapped it hard enough; the sky-blue walls were only partially chipped; the clientele was prestigious. Perched at the bar was Michael James - "Dr Mike" but tonight without his band, the Interns. Next to him, in black suit and tie, was Johnnie Billington, a Bluesman on a mission, "Mr Johnnie", 61, now dedicates himself to teaching Blues guitar to young Delta kids.

We cracked open our beers and he told me his Blues survival plan. "A black child growing up on the Delta feels down-sided - crushed, you know. Eighty per cent of these kids will get in trouble before they get to 18. If a kid has a guitar in his hand it Negro legend went, you could means he don't have a gun in

his hand."

The Delta is a poor, hard place to call home. The Blues are trendy for whites who can do what I was doing - cruise in, enjoy it, and take away a memory to middle-class suburbia. For the blacks, it is all they have. Mr Johnnie knew the

pressures of the Delta, and how fragile the life of a young black can be. His mission began with a few kids who would come past his house and hear him playing. Eventually he got a band together and they played a gig downtown in Clarksdale. That event grew into the Sunflower River Blues Festival, now a mainstay of the town's arts calendar, and saved those kids from an uncertain future.

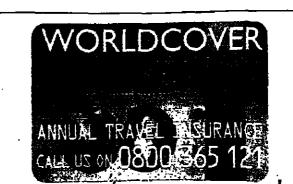
The Delta is home to numerous graduates from Mr Johnnie's school of life. His current band, the Midnighters, tour often,

cramming into his ageing motor-home and trundling off all over the state. One of his proudest moments was when he was doing some music workshops at a predominantly white school in Jackson, Mississippi, and got an offer to take a young band to New

York to perform. "The school thought there was no way it was going to work," he said. "Imagine it: a black man, a Blues player, taking four little white kids to New York City for a week.

Ain't no way their parents are going to go for that. But they all did, and we went. We broke down a barrier that day."

Mr Johnnie was due on stage; I was delaying the jam session. Dr Mike, a former student of Mr Johnnie's in his garage classroom, pointed after his mentor as he walked away. "Now he is a real Bluesman. Takes bad news and makes it good. That's the Blues, right there on stage in



nev

stealing your roses ...

soap factory workers.

Sophie Campbell visits the model

pours out of funnels and factory chimneys

spout eternal flames. "Home of the Astra,"

shricks a neon sign, as light catches the masts

of ships moored at the Ellesmere Port Boat

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Port

Sunligh

sounds carry through the car windows.

This makes it all

the more confusing to

wake up the next day

and find vourself in

the cheery toytown

surroundings of

nearby Port Sunlight.

where bricks and

flagstones, leaded

lights and porthole

windows present a

clean, scrubbed face

to the world. It may

be just five miles

away as the crow

flies, but it feels like

a different planet.

Port Sunlight is the

munity and museum.

village built by Lord Leverbulme in 1888

to house workers from his soap factory. It

was, as its breezy, optimistic name implies,

considered to be a model village built by

a model employer, and today it occupies

the middle ground between living com-

somewhere in the village. When I last went

it was in Greendale Road, where Judith

Smith - representing the local estate agents

- was doing her knitting and showing peo-

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Clean living Until fairly recently in Port ple around. "Actually it was sold last week," Sunlight, crime was someone she said. "They'll have to find me another

one now." She was brought up "on the village", in the days when everybody knew everybody because they all worked for Lever village built for Lord Leverhulme's Brothers. Her father was one of the company firemen. "The village police - they were paid by Levers - were two retired firemen. At night, the industrial sprawl of Ellesmere Mr Ryan and Mr Green. We were petrified Port on the Wirral Peninsula seems both of them. Kids these days aren't scared of elamorous and demonic. Lights in imposreal policemen, let alone pensioners dressed sible numbers glitter like some sci-fi city, up as policemen." at once focusing and disorientating. Smoke

That explains some of the attraction of Port Sunlight, both to tourists and to prospective buyers (the first houses went on sale to non-Levers employees in 1979). It creates a convincing illusion of safer, more Museum and nameless hoots and shunting certain days. It still looks like the sort of place where children can run around safely and where nothing

stays secret for long. If your front door warps or a road sign is broken, you still ring Levers' managing agents to come and sort it out. Until very recently crime in Port Sunlight was someone vandalising your roses, or letting your tyres down, and "Sunlighters" (the villagers) were happy to keep it that way. In the Heritage

Centre, among reproductions of the famous Pears posters and a stern advertisement reading "Why Does A Woman Look Old Sooner Than A Man" (I never did find out), there were village trail leaflets for doing your own guided walk. I set off through strangely car-free streets enough for cars to be tucked out of sight through a sampler of suburban architecture. The 30 architects employed by Leverhulme to realise his dream had a go at everything: Tudor beams, pargetted gables, walls

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The 30 architects of Port Sunlight had a go at everything – from Tudor beams to pebbledash

street has a different look and some of the planning? details - bowed front doors, for example. or quaintly shaped windows - are fiendishly difficult to maintain.

Strolling past the Gladstone Theatre (formerly the men's dining room) and Hulme Hall (formerly the women's dining room - and later venue for Ringo's first ever appearance with The Beatles). I found myself unable to believe how life has changed. Was it truly less than a century ago that the male and female soap workers went to work five minutes apart, so they the service alleys behind the houses are wide couldn't fraternise on the way, and that girls under 16 actually had their partners for the annual dance chosen by the village committee? Could it really be such a short time since Lord Leverhulme's insistence on indoor bathrooms, front lawns and allotments

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of brick, plaster and pebble dash. Every for every house were seen as radical town

There were also leisure facilities for the 900 or so workers that lived here. There were bowling greens and gardens, an open-air swimming pool, a landscaped dell for picnics. Port Sunlight even likes to say that it has its own Taj Mahal, in the form of Lady Lever's Art Gallery, built in memory of Leverhulme's much-loved wife. It stands at the end of a long vista of lawns and roses and houses an effectic collection of paintings and decorative arts (not to mention a very good restaurant), including the nostalgic Victorian pictures which were used to such effect in Lever Brothers advertising.

When King George V and Queen Mary laid the foundation stone in 1914 (they did it by remote control, and a light

TRULY LAID") they stunned the crowd by passing through the barriers. "We have come to look at your cottage!" said the King, to the owner of No 20, Bolton Road. 'Welcome, Your Majesty!" said the stunned inhabitant. There is a plaque there to prove it.

Things have changed a lot since Lever-

hulme's death. Village houses sell on the open market for up to £80,000 a throw. Young Sunlighters escape manicured lawns and head for naughtier suburbs like Bromborough and the Croft Retail Park, with its multiplex cinema, bowling alleys and nightclubs. After a day in the land of the Women's Helpful League and the Boys'

came on saying "STONE WELL AND Then I remembered Mr Green and Mr Ryan, and thought better of it.

> For more information about Port Sunlight, contact the Heritage Centre, 95 Greendale Road, Port Sunlight, Wirral, Merseyside L62 4XE (0151 644 6466). Opening hours: 10 ampm in winter, weekdays only, and at weekends as well from April to October.

The Bridge Inn Hotel (0151 645 8441) is the only B&B in Port Sunlight. Midweek, rooms cost £57.50 for a double and between £27.50 and £42.50 for a single. On Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights, a double is £46 and a single £27.50.

Lady Lever's Art Gallery (0151 478 4136) has been recently refurbished. Entry Brigade, of 27,000 trees and 10,000 rose costs £3 for an adult, £1.50 for concessions. bushes and row after row of perfect hous- und includes entry to other Merseyside gales, I felt rather like being naughty myself. leries for 12 months.

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# 48 hours in the life of ... Stockholm

Each week, 'The independent provides a prescription for the perfect two-day break to the soul of a city. This week, Simon Calder forsakes Waterloo for Stockholm, and couldn't escape if he wanted to.

Why go now?

Control of the state of the sta

Can you hear the drums? In 1997, the Swedish capital has finally become accessible at a sensible price; new, cheap flights make a weekend break affordable. But don't hang around: every day until midwinter, the Scandinavian gloom deepens. exacerbated this autumn by losing the 2004 Olympics. And from the New Year, the city becomes European Capital of Culture, so accommodation could be at a premium. Must be funny in a rich man's world.

Beam down

Until this summer, flying from Britain to Sweden for a low fare was as tricky as, say, getting from Stansted to Skavsia. Then Ryanair (0541 \$569569) solved both problems at once. For £99 plus tax you can fly from the Essex airport to what is euphemistically described as "Stockholm South". A connecting bus covers the 60 miles into town in about 80 minutes, for £11 return. British Airways (0345 222111), Finnair (0171-408 1222) and SAS (0345 010789) have been obliged to trim their fares from Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester to compete; they fly to the main Arlanda airport, balf-anhour north of the city.

Get your bearings

A bus from either airport will drop you at the central bus and rail station, on the most important of Y Stockholm's 14 islands. You are on the western edge of the main commercial district, Norrmalm, where you will end up spending lots of your time. The other attractive landmass is just south of here: Gamla Stan (old town), an island out of time. The most comprehensively stocked tourist office in the northern hemisphere is half-a-mile east of the station; ask anyone for directions to the Sweden House.

Bredang campsite, well south west you take an early evening drink in of the city. If I had to do the same your hotel room - not to save cash, again I would, my friend, but with so much as to experience the social on 31 October) I recommend instead old steamer once owned by Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton and now converted into a "botel" which Ten of these are dotted around the Björn and Benny".

costs around £60 double (book on city. You enter an alarmingly sanit-00 46 824 3600); or the Scandinavian ised hall where the beer and wine are sterile Scandic Park (00 46 822 kept well out of reach. Like a school-9620), squatting squarely on the boy buying condoms, you have to north side of Humlegarden, £90 double including an eat-all-you-can breakfast - a critical advantage hereabouts.

Take a ride

Take tram 7 out to Djurgarden, Stockholm's very own national park, (though out of summer the Tivoli funfair looks a little dismal). Take the ferry back to Gamla Stan to sense the resonances of a city which has found harmony between land and water.

Take a hike

... when you land at the old town. through the narrow lanes and elegantly discrect spaces of Gamla Stan. Time your trip to pass the Royal Palace at 12.15pm (on Saturdays; an hour later on Sundays), when a crowd gathers to witness the changing of the guard. Don't be deceived by the number of people present into thinking that Stockholm has suddenly acquired a mass of tourists; most of the audience for this military parade are the families of the servicemen. The honour is shared around the Swedish military on a rota system, so every soldier gets his 15 minutes of fame. Super troopers, indeed.

Lunch on the run

In the opulent district of Ostermalm, the local market looks like Harrods' food hall and sells a zoo's worth of cold cuts from warm-blooded beasts: elk, bear and other non-endangered Nordic nosh. You have never assembled so exotic a picnic.

Cultural afternoon

You have four brief hours, from noon to 4pm, to visit Millesgarden, the home of Scandinavia's most famous it; take the Tunnelbana to Ropsten, then a bus to Torsviks. What sets this place apart from the dozens of other museums in Stockholm is that Carl Milles spent most of his life constructing his own extraordinary epitaph. The garden terraces that tumble down towards the steely water are populated by a large, dysfunctional family of sculptures.

My first visit was spent at the in the 48 hours series, I recommend

queue up and ask the assistant clearly for your chosen poison.

Demure dinner

Stockholm New magazine says the city has changed "from a stale mashed potato and gravy outpost into one of Europe's most dynamic gourmet metropolises". That's going it a bit, but certainly my best meal this year was at Cliff Barnes. There was something in the air that night.

The three surprises about this place are (a) that anyone should name a restaurant after a bit player in an Eighties series such as Dullas; (b) that it would be located in the middle of what looks like a giant sanatorium; (c) that the food should be such exceptional value for money. It's where they play the right music. too; the only reason you can get a table on a Saturday night is that it's a couple of miles north west of the

Sunday morning: go to church Stockholm's citizens still shed tears for their lost humanitarian, Prime Minister Olof Palme - assassinated in 1986. He is buried at Adolf Fredriks church, which poses prettily in the north of Norrmalm.

Bracing brunch

Almost all the city's restaurants and cafés are closed on Sunday mornings. Be first in the queue for the National Museum when it opens at 11am, and ignore the collection of paintings and sculptures in favour of the Atrium restaurant. The 60kr museum admission fee will soften you up for splashing out on a fishy feast.

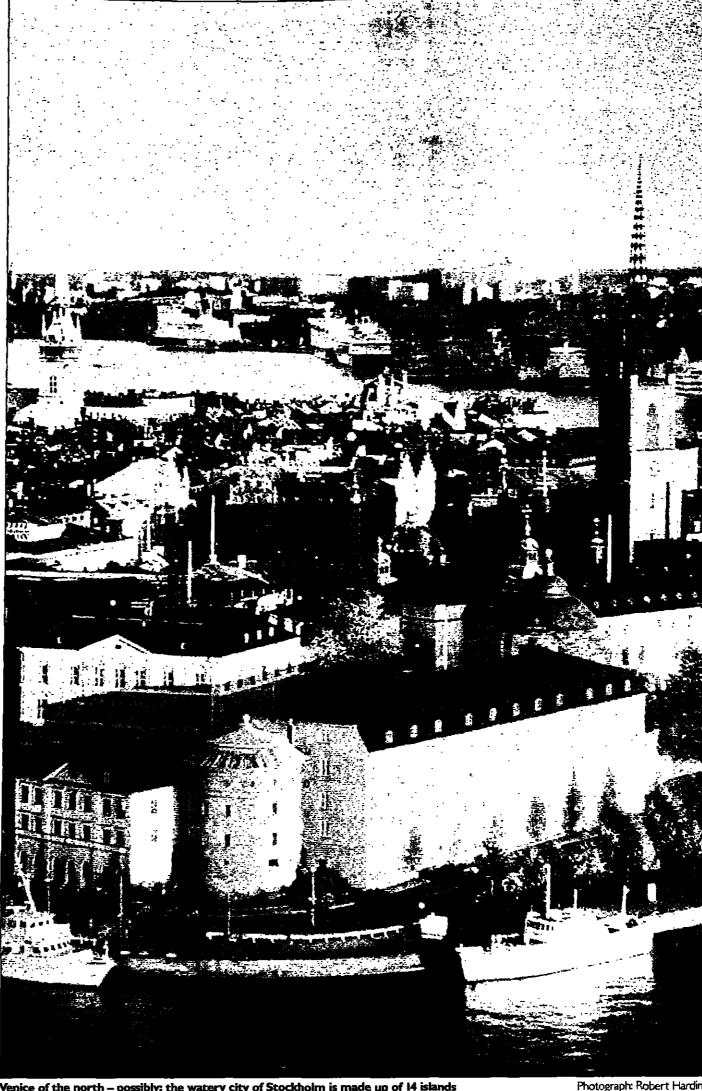
A walk in the park

sculptor. The tough part is finding Stepping just a little further takes you over the bridge to the island of Skeppsholmen. They call Stockholm the Venice of the north. In places it looks more like the Portsmouth of the east, or the Murmansk of the west. But walking around the green spaces of this pocket-sized, teardropshaped isle reveals the capital in its best light and shade.

The souvenir

A tin of herrings with the brand name For the first (and probably last) time Abba, sold in most supermarkets. If the person in front of you grabs the last can, just say, "If you change your mind. I'm the first in line."

winter approaching (the site closes stigma attaching to the Swedish Simon Calder will donate his copy of drinker. Even if you've never thought 'Abba Gold' to the person who spots the Maladrottningen - a handsome you had an alcohol problem, you will all the references from Abba songs when you visit a Stockholm off- AND comes up with the best anagram licence - known as Systembolaget. from the 24 letters of "Agneta, Frida,



Venice of the north - possibly: the watery city of Stockholm is made up of I4 islands

Photograph: Robert Harding

# Of all the gin-joints in all the towns in all the world ...

Scientists say that our appreciation of the weirdness of 'coincidences' is flawed; our brains simply have not evolved to cope with big numbers. But Mark Rowe is still awestruck by the way he keeps meeting long-lost friends in unexpected places.

Two people, one big world, "Of all the ginjoints ... moans Humphrey Bogart, as he spots Ingrid Bergman through a haze of smoke and whisky in that immortal scene from Casablanca. And it might well seem unlikely that the Hump and Ingrid characters bump into each other in an outpost of the Second World War.

A coincidence, you may well think. But most people reading this article have probNew Delhi. It may not always be in a ginjoint, but I am a serial people-meeter, and I am not the only one. Why does it happen?

During my childhood I invariably met schoolfriends, looking as sullen as myself. in tea shops in Cornwall or Skegness while spending rainswept family holidays, But during the last few years I have achieved several satisfying "meets".

After two months travelling around China in 1991. I decided on my last day to go for a cycle ride off the tourist trail on the outskirts of Peking. I wanted to see the "real China". Instead, along a dirt-track hutong, I met the real Western Europe, in the shape of a friend I had not seen for three years. She had left college with no real plans, and had gone to China to see what turned up. I assume she had hoped it would be something more exotic than me, but for the first

iday, whether in Newquay, New York or friend in a country of 1.2 billion people.

Another example: I once raised the cash for a trip to India by spending two months laving out motorway cones on the M25. One lad who shared biscuits and tea with me during the night shifts was also planning to go to India, and we joked about meeting in a country of 650 million people. Sure enough, as I slumped on to a bus travelling from Agra to Fatehpur Sikri, I was tapped on the shoulder and turned round to see Jim.

"It's all to do with social class," said Dr Susan Blackmore, a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of the West of England in Bristol. "The same sort of people are drawn to the same kind of holiday. Travelling through India, you will spend a lot of time in bus stations and on trains and at major sights - the places where there is

a high concentration of foreigners. "We think it is an amazing coincidence.

ably met someone they know while on hol-time I pondered the odds of meeting a but really it's just that our brains have not in. Enthused by finally getting the chance ple you know who you didn't meet there, evolved to cope with big numbers. We are still used to the caveman mentality of small packs of people. To illustrate this, you can ask how many people you need in a room before there is a 50-50 chance of two sharing the same birthday. Most people might say 186 - or half of 365 - but in fact it is just 23, because that gives you the right number of possible pairs. The odds are lower than you think on such so-called coincidences."

Not always, though. Burma in 1992 remains my greatest achievement when it comes to meeting people in unexpected places. This was just before tourism to Burma expanded - and before I was fully aware of the atrocities committed by the military iunta. In my first five days there I saw precisely two foreigners.

Then, one evening in Mandalay, I was sitting in my hotel's voluminous and silent reading room when a fellow tourist walked

to talk about what we had seen, we started by establishing a few reference points. "What did I do?" asked Victor. I had just started working for the Grimsby Evening Telegraph, I told him. "Well, you've probably never heard of it but ...

Victor had beard of it. He had been the Grimsby Telegraph's production editor, but had left the week before I started, in order to travel round the world. And here we were in Burma. No other tourists, just two people from Grimsby, a town which prides itself on its insularity, and whose population views a day trip to Hull as reason to get the passport out. Why go abroad when you've got Cleethorpes, I was often asked, during my three years in the town.

"That is weird, and does go off the scale of odds," said Dr Blackmore, "But it is only one coincidence, and you should think, 'isn't that nice', and remind yourself of the peoto keep it in perspective."

On my return to Bangkok I passed the night in the airport before an early flight home, talking with a man from Guildford who worked, and shared a desk with, my best friend from school; his veracity was established when he complained about the way my friend clinked his cup against his teeth when drinking coffee.

Dr Blackmore again: "The more outlandish the coincidence, the worse we are at being able to rationalise it. Most of us know about 1,000 people to recognise, and by association we have things in common with many more."

So spare a thought for poor old Bogie. Had he thought it through - Casablanca was, after all, a vital bolt-hole for those fleeing the Nazi advance - he would have stayed in Europe, and saved himself the heartache of meeting up with Ingrid again.

### GREEN CHANNEL

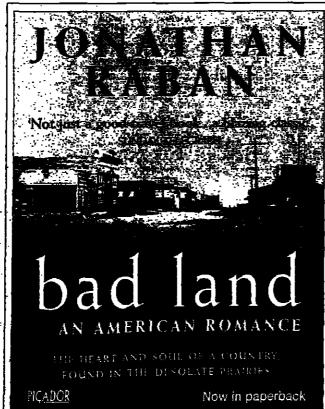
We're all familiar with the three Ss - Sun, Sea and Sand. But isn't there a fourth? No, not that. News from around the world seems to indicate it's probably Smog.

Tourists are fleeing from South-east Asia because of it. A friend of mine visiting Paris last week was choking on it, despite the city's attempt to cut down pollution by banning even-numbered cars on Parisian roads. And our own London Tourist Board is also concerned about pollution levels in our tourist-packed city. How can we deal with this problem? Have an "integrated transport policy", says the London Tourist Board, which this week launched its vision for the year 2010 encouraging the use of pub-

Other European cities have been taking an organised approach to transport for a while now. In Vienna, the trams whisk you gracefully through the city, and passengers are, incredibly, trusted to buy and stamp their own tickets on every journey.

Not surprisingly, Switzerland's public transport is famous for running like clockwork. And in Copenhagen, tourist maps indicate numerous locations around the city where you can extract a "city bike" from a cycle stand on the pavement for 20 kroner. You can then cycle to your chosen tourist sight, park your bike at the nearest bike stand and retrieve your money. Choose from a bus, a train or another bike to take you back again. Smog, in Copenhagen, is not an issue.

Sue Wheat



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# What's Serbian for 'Piste'?

Where will you be skiing this season? North America or Italy may be your choice, but some national tourist boards are keen for you to try somewhere new. Stephen Wood explains.

quire about skiing in Serbia at its national tourist board's stand in the World Travel Market, London's annual shindig for the trade. "Sure, you can ski in Serbia," said one of the staff, as if nothing could be simpler. She gave me a map of the country, and explained how to apply for a visa: then she went back to folding leaflets.

Organising a trip to Serbia is easier now because it is one of the new destinations in this year's brochures. Thomson is offering holidays in what it calls "Yugoslavia's best-kept secret", the resort of Kopaonik, about 175km south of Belgrade. It has had much more encouragement from the Serbian tourist office than I got; as a result it can charge as little as £275 a week in late January for self-catering accommodation, with a learn-to-ski package, equipment hire, and a lift pass thrown in.

The big six ski operators add new destinations to their brochures for most seasons, and after a good '96/97 (and with the pound still strong against most other currencies) they are particularly bullish this year. So apart from the organic growth in currently popular countries - a whole slew of packages to resorts in north America and Italy has been introduced - and the dramatic return of Switzerland owing to the favourable exchange rate, the brochures have also expanded geographically, notably into northern and eastern Europe.

Why do the operators keep adding fresh snowfields? Andrew Russell, of Inghams, says simply that "we aim to match customer demand, and there are some customers who will always want to go somewhere new". But for Andy Perrin, marketing director of Crystal, going into new areas is some-

thing of a crusade: "It makes a statement about the kind of company we are," he says. "Our customers are people who chose to do something more exciting than lie on the beach for a week. The big tour operators, for whom skiing is only a small part of their business, tend to concentrate on a few established resorts where the vol-Almost a year ago, I stopped to en- ume is high. That's the bankers' approach to ski operating; it's not ours."

If Perrin is blowing his own trumpet, he has a right to do so. The most remarkable innovation in this season's major brochures is Crystal's packages to Gudauri, in Georgia. The resort, at 2,123m in the Caucasus mountains, is a place for serious off-piste skiing: the little piste map in the brochure shows iust five ski-lifts, but seven landing points for helicopter shuttles, and the holidays are priced (from £1.200 up to £2,200) according to the length of the skiing descents - with a maximum vertical drop of 20,000 metres a week.

We featured Gudauri in our brochure several years ago," says Perrin, "and a couple of hundred customers booked to go there. But we had to cancel it because of political unrest and fuel shortages: the flights went via Moscow then, and no one could guarantee that there would be enough fuel to continue on to Tbilisi." Now that the area is stable, and BA is running direct flights to Tbilisi, Perrin has been able to bring Gudauri back into the brochure. "I've never forgotten it ... the Caucasus is unlike any other ski area. It's breathtakingly beautiful; and when you are up in the mountains you can see no sign of mankind - no villages, roads or pylons."

SKI TIP

the key factor rather than cost"; going to the other extreme, Finnish Lapland - which both Crystal and Inghams have introduced this year - is, he says, for "people who don't want to ski every day". Inghams's Andrew Russell admits that "the downhill skiing there is

Perrin says Gudauri is aimed at limited, but it's an exotic area with lots year, "hasn't worked as well as we ex-

ta Claus. We sold out the Christmas period very quickly, and we've found that even in January families still want to visit Santa." Introducing a new destination is al-

ways something of a gamble. Norway, a weekly charter flight laid on by the which Inghams also introduced this pected", says Russell. (Asked whether it would be in next year's brochure, his reply was a measured "I don't know".) But the risks are reduced when the operator has support from the local tourist board. Russell says that Finnish Lapland been under consideration for a couple of years, but Inghams is offering it now because of an approach from Finland - which gets an amazing 15,000 visitors to Lapland from

skiers "for whom memorable skiing is of other attractions - including San- Britain in December but averages a paltry 1,500 a month for the rest of the vear, and is therefore eager to appear in package-tour brochures.

For its venture into Serbia, Thomson has also had local support, including national airline, JAT. Primarily a beachholiday company (and presumably the main target of Andy Perrin's barb about the big tour operators' approach to skiing), Thomson is now developing its ski range. This year, it has dramatically increased its packages to north America (thanks to Monarch's twice-weekly charter flight to Denver, which Thomson instigated), and has already seen sales increase by 45 per cent.

The Serbian packages compete at the other end of the market, with Bul-

garia. "Don't ask me why, but Bulgaria is a popular destination for British skiers," says Ian Simkins, Thomson's ski marketing manager. He thinks that "Serbia offers a better-quality product at a comparable price. I can't deny that there is an 'awareness' problem about Serbia; but on the other hand there is political pressure on the country to make our skiing holidays succeed. Croatia has direct charters, and so has Slovenia if we withdraw, Serbia will be the odd one out." The tourist organisations, he says, are under a lot of pressure, which

they're very flexible in helping us." Flexible and helpful? Times change. The Serbia stand may be worth another visit at next month's World

obviously benefits us. Because it means

Thomson goes to Serbia: the resort of Kopaonik is, the tour operator maintains, 'Yugoslavia's bestkept secret"

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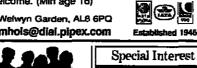
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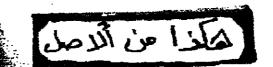


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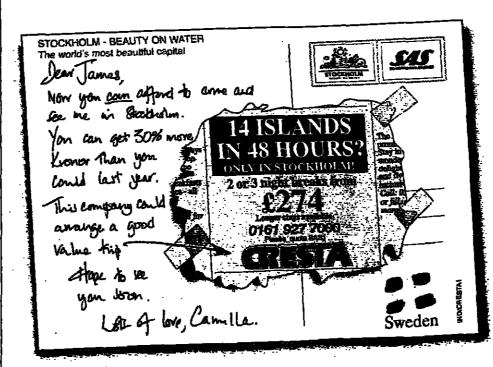
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# The powder room

You don't need even need to venture outdoors if you want your children to learn how to ski. At the Tamworth SnowDome, you can slide around on a carpet that's whiter than snow and possibly a little more powdery, as Brigid McConville found out.

Despite the name it's not a dome, and, technically, it's not natural snow either but who cares? This is still the only place in Britain where you can ski on cold white powder all the year round. At this time of year it is packed with families getting a bit of practice before taking off for skiing holidays, so if you want a lesson make sure you book well in advance.

There is a row tow on one side of the slope, and on the other a travelator, which is like an escalator without steps. The snow slope is 150m long and 30m wide, which means you can get a decent run from the top, or take the tow rope half-way up for a more sedate descent. The grooming machine comes out four times daily to keep icy patches to a minimum.

As part of a big, modern leisure complex, SnowDome has all the romance of a skating rink; no natural light, constant Muzak and fruit machines in the bar/café. On the other hand, the artificial environment of the ski slope means no biting winds, a constant temperature of 2-4 degrees centigrade and near perfect snow conditions.

Brigid McConville, a freelance journalist, took her children Maeve, 12, and Arthur, nine, to SnowDome in Tamworth, where they had a skiing lesson.

Arthur: When I started off I thought that it was a bit tricky and I wasn't really enjoying it. It was quite hard, and I kept sliding downhill. The back of my skis would go wonky, which made me fall over, and I thought, "I can't do this." But that was because I wasn't bending my knees, and

snow-plough it was really cool.

Then we got to go on the rope tow and that was fun, although I didn't think it would go so fast. I learnt to do loads of turns, and now and then I fell over. Sometimes I got my skis crossed going downhill, and I didn't know where they were. Falling didn't really hurt because it was quite soft snow. It looked like flour.

Sometimes I'm really determined, and when Maeve zoomed past me I really wanted to do that too, but I realised I would



Maeve and Arthur bend their knees at the SnowDome Photos Newsteam

when I got the hang of it and learnt to need more lessons first. I was trying my ground, and I had to try to pull it up. Once hardest and after a while I was quite good at it, and I got better and better.

When I went really fast I didn't know what to do; my legs were in the wrong place and I crashed into the barrier at the bottom. One time I skied over the edge of a snow-board that had crashed - that was quite scary. I hurt my ear a bit because I slipped when I was on the rope tow and caught my ear on the rope.

Peter, our instructor, was nice, and the lesson was helpful as I'd never been on skis before - except once on a dry slope, which

By the end I could do a bit of turning to the left, but not to the right. I could snow-plough and I could go down a steep hill. I've got quite a long way to go to be a good skier, but I thought I was doing quite well for my age.

I wouldn't like to go too many times;

it would get boring.

Maeve: I was very impressed when I saw the SnowDome; it looked really fun. The skiing lesson was a bit boring at first but I understand the instructor has to make sure you can do stops before you go to the top.

To start with we had to put on one ski and scoot around; then two skis and shuffle and turn circles. Then we stepped sideways up the slope, which was hard are also available. work, but it was fun going down again touching your head, shoulders, knees and toes. We had a really good teacher.

I wanted to get on to the tow rope but when I did I found it was pretty hard on SnowDome is just off the A5. There is amyour arms. It kept going down to the ple free parking.

I slipped off, which hurt my legs, and I couldn't get out of the way of the person behind me, which was pretty scary. But I didn't fall down once.

> I'd already learnt to turn on a ski slope in Scotland, but I learnt to do a bit more and got to go quite fast - though not too fast, as I don't like being out of control.

> It's good that there were snow-boarders there as well - mostly teenagers wearing strange hats - because it's something

> The snow was very, very realistic. It was snow, wasn't it? I'd definitely like to go again, every week, although I'd settle for every month.

SnowDome is at Tarnworth Leisure Island. River Drive, Tamworth, Staffs. For details about sessions ring SnowDome reception on 01827 67905, or call 0990 000011 for lesson bookings (it is best to call several weeks in advance).

Prices range from £14 (adult) and £9 (junior) for one hour's ski/snow-board session mid-week, to £18 (adult) and £12 (junior) at weekends. Group ski lessons cost up to £20 (adult) and £14 (junior) whereas snow-board lessons cost £22 (adult) and £17.50 (junior). Private lessons

How to get there: by train go to Tamworth station; taxis from the station to the SnowDome cost about £2. Or, by car, take the exit from M42 on Junction 10, the

# **NEARLY THERE?**

Literary days out for children

The World of Beatrix Potter (01539 488444) at the Okl Laundry, Bowness-on-Windern provides an undercover walk that leads children through different. village and woodland scenes to meet life-size figures of Beautix Potter's characters. There is also a short film about the writer's life, and a video wall to introduce, the stories. Open 10am-4pm, adults. £2.99, children £1.99.

At nearby Hawkshead, the Beatrix Potter Gallery (01539: 436355) displays 100 or so original illustrations from the stories. The collection is housed in what were once the offices of Beatrix Potter's: solicitor husband. Open until 2 November, 10.30am-4pm. Adults £2.60, children £1.30

The Bronte Parsonage Museum (01535 642323) in Haworth, West Yorkshire, contains the Bronte sisters' furniture and personal belongings, re-creating the atmosphere of their family home. Exhibits include their earliest writings, their clothes, and Emily Bronte's writing desk, with its contents as she left it. A visit will give children the opportunity to join the Angriaus, the junior branch of the Bronte Society. The Angrians encourages young interest in the writings of the Brontes through competitions, poetry and story writing, and by organising occasional workshops in Haworth. Membership costs £5. The museum is open 11am-4.30pm. Adults £3.80, children £1.20, concessions £2.80.

The Nene Valley Railway (01780 784444), at Wansford station, near Peterborough, is the home of Thomas, named after The Reverend Wilbert Awdry's Thomas the Tank Engine. On bank holidays and half-terms children can ride behind Thomas on his own branch line which passes through a 'haunted" tunnel. At other times visitors can see him at the station, and enjoy a day out travelling by steam train. There are more than seven miles of track through the picturesque Nene Valley. An adult rover ticket, giving unlimited travel for a day, costs £7.50; a child ticket costs £3.50. Services operate on Sundays from mid-February, weekends from Easter to October, Wednesdays from May and some mid-week services in summer.

The Shrewsbury Quest (01743 243324), Shrewsbury, offers adults and children the chance to take part in a medieval mystery, based on the Brother Cadfael books by Ellis Peters. Cloisters and a garden planted with herbs that would have been present in Cadfael's time provide the backdrop to the quest. As well as hunting for clues, visitors can make an illuminated manuscript or practise calligraphy. There is a Young Questor mystery for children to gather clues to make a medieval rune. The restaurant has meals such as the "Abbot's lunch" to enhance the 12th-century atmosphere. Open daily, 10am-4pm. Adults £3.95. children £2.50, under fives free, and concessions £3.20.

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# A Hardy showing of Wessex folk

Tess of the D'Urbervilles' comes alive at Dorchester's museum – as do a smugglers' den and a riddle book. Fiona Macaulay unravels a few surprises.

An enormous mask with cow horns and goggly eyes is the first thing to surprise you in the galleries of Dorchester County Museum. This is the Ooser, a pagan creature, his body draped with cow skin and sackcloth, whose role in Dorset folklore was to frighten people.

The galleries are the latest project of Bremner and Orr Design Consultants. creators of the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery in Aylesbury. Their brief here was to display the finest Thomas Hardy collection in the world, along with smaller collections of lesser known Dorset writers such as John Meade Falkner and William Barnes. They needed to make them appealing to children, without excluding the literary enthusiasts.

This exhibition is not for toddlers, but for children who can read small-print books for themselves, Teenagers and those a bit younger will find plenty to interest them - and adults, too. Bremner and Orr have used striking props to bring the collections to life.

Hardy had a great love for the old ways of the countryside and descriptions of them weave their way through his work. In The Mayor of Casterbridge he de-

scribes a skimmity ride, which is brought to life in one of the displays. Models of a husband and wife who were accused of mistreating each other would be tied back-to-back on a donkey and paraded through the streets. Some of the musical instruments and kitchen hardware that might have been used by the accompanying procession to create as much din as possible are shown, along with contemporary drawings and ac-

counts of skimmity rides. Hardy was not only a successful writer: he was also an accomplished ar-National Trust) is the house he designed for himself near Dorchester: the galleries There is also a replica of the huge Neo-

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After you've had your fill of literary Dorset, sample some of the county's

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Dorchester. There are always fresh flowers on the pine tables and, in winter, a

real fire adds to the welcome at Sue Collier's charming establishment, tucked

clotted cream ( $\mathcal{E}2.25$ ) — is available all day, and virtually everything, including

some 20 or so ice creams, is home-made. High-chairs and children's drinking

mugs are there for younger customers, who can have smaller portions at

From Egon Ronay's Guide 'And Children Come Too ...' (Bookman, £9.99)

edible offerings at Potter In (01305 260312) on 19 Durngate Street in

PIT STOP

terest in Dorset's ancient history. There are displays about the women

in Hardy's life and the characters behind the books, in particular The Mayor of Casterbridge and Tess of the D'Urbervilles. A touch-screen computer offers up lots of gems, including an interview with Julie Christie on the set of the film of Far from the Madding Crowd.

One of the most interesting characters among lesser known writers in the galleries is William Barnes, a great friend of Thomas Hardy. A Victorian chitect. Max Gate (now owned by the renaissance man, he was a teacher, poet, antiquarian, priest and linguist (with a working knowledge of 60 lanhave a reconstruction of his study. guages). You can sit at his desk and look at a model of him in the odd, archaic lithic sarsen stone that he found in his dress that he always wore. Other aspects

grounds, which further stimulated his in- of his life can be explored on a a computer, complete with recordings of his songs (including "Linden Lea") and poems in Dorset dialect.

Children too young for Barnes's petry or Hardy's novels will find the perfect introduction to Dorset writers in Moonfleet, a ripping yarn by John Meade Falkner, about a boy, John Trenchard, who discovers, in a smugglers' den, a che to the hiding-place of the pirate Blackbeard's diamond. A large panel illustrates John trying to hide from the smugglers among the rats and coffins. Beside it is a barrel where you search for the clue in a secret compartment.

Younger members with a checky sense of humour will also enjoy being introduced to the Dorset tradition of riddle-making. There's a riddle book to look through - one example, for instance, reads "Under the water, over the water and never touches the water. What am !?" (A woman crossing a stream with a pail of water on her head.)

Here you can follow clues to various objects in the galleries. All those which objects in the gamenes. An unconstraint, are answers to clues are clearly marked, so if unravelling a riddle proves too difficult, you can do it the other way round and fit the object to a riddle.

Dorsel County Museum, High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset (01305 262735). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, adults £2.35; children and concessions £1.20, family ückets (two adults, two children), £6.50-

# 9/GARDENING مكذا من ألاصل



The plants that come in from the cold

From dahlias to geraniums, now is the time to prepare for frost. But which warm-

weather plants can you leave to brave the winter outside. and which should you lift and store indoors?

There are still some exquisites who sneer at dahlias, thinking them gross and vulgar. But now that they have appeared in full, shining splendour on the front of the latest edition of the glossy Gardens Illustrated, surely their apotheosis is complete?

Like aspidistras and giant marrows, they have a touch of the music hall about them, and even their most ardent devotees have to admit that there are some sulphurously evil yellows among the dahlia tribe. But there are also some gorgeous terracottas, such as the swirling, sumny 'Hamari Gold' and the neat, rich flowers of 'David Howard', set against dark brouze foliage.

I can scarcely remember a year when dahlias have looked better. September, with its still, sunny days, suited them perfeetly. There were no high winds to snap them from their supports, no heavy downpours to melt the petals into mush. The beautiful dark-leaved 'Grenadier' is the best thing in our garden at the moment. It has the same foliage as the red-flowered 'Bishop of Llandaff', but the flowers are double, beautifully formed and without the Bishop's distracting eye.

As anyone who listens to Gardener's Question Time knows, there's a splendid mystique attached to dahlias: the disbudding, the lifting, the storing, the dusting with flowers of sulphur. It all sounds so reasonable, but with us the storing tends to be followed by the things GQT doesn't talk about: the shrivelling; the eating by mice. These kinds of problems forced us to reappraise the purist approach, and now we leave the tubers in the ground, well mulched with beech leaves.

There are disasters associated with this course of action, too, but not so many as when we used to lift dahlias. There were some exceptionally cold spells last winter and we lost three plants, including the fine, spiky red cactus dahlia 'Alva's Doris'.

it leaving dahlia tubers in the grou Brandysnap' dahlia is an option only if you live in the relatively to themselves in a frost-free situation such or break them off and pot them up sep-Photograph: mild south or west of the country. Any day as a conservatory, geraniums never be-arately? My instinct is to leave them be Neil Holmes/GPL now the dahlia roadshow is going to be come dormant. They just go on growing, until spring,

First, cut down the blackened stems, leaving about 6in intact, and ease the tubers gently out of the soil with a fork. Shake off any soil - lifting is much easier if the soil is relatively dry - and label the tubers as you lift. By next May, when exactly the same and, without labels, colour co-ordination will be a lottery.

Stand the tubers upside down to drain any moisture away from inside the hollow stems. They should dry off within a fortnight. Then trim off the stems and stack the tubers in wooden apple boxes lined with newspaper. When the box is full, cover the tubers with compost, chipped bank or Vermiculite that you have dampened very slightly. Stack the boxes in a dry, cool and frost-free place. Set mousetraps nearby. I find chocolate a good bait for mice.

Dahlias are not the only plants that, in cold areas, need special treatment to get through the winter. Perennial tropaeolums, nasturtium-flowered climbers such

#### **ANNA PAVORD**

as Tropaeolum tuberosum 'Ken Aslet', also grow from tubers that will rot and melt if they are left in the ground through a severe winter. The tubers are yellow, marbled with purple, much more interesting than a dahlia's.

The trumpet flower is red on the outside, yellow inside, held elegantly on a long stem. The leaves are good, too, greyishgreen and lobed. In fact, the only problem with this climber is its tender disposition. But its home is South America - Columbia, Ecuador, Peru - so it is not surprising that it doesn't like our winters.

When frost has knocked back the foliage, cut off the dead stems at the base of the plant, clear them away, and lift the tuber carefully with a fork. Brush off as much soil as you can before drying it off gently in a warm place such as an airingcupboard. Then clean up the tuber, getting rid of any last bits of soil or dried-off root before storing it in a dry, frost-free place until planting-time next spring.

Geraniums are also now growing in borrowed time, but here you need to act like bantam chicks under the mother ore the first frost rather than a

brought to an abrupt end by frost. What If they are growing outside in pots, you do you do then if you live in a chilly area? have two options: either overwinter the whole plant, or take cuttings and overwinter those rather than the parent. If you've got room you can do both.

If you want to take cuttings, do it before you lift the plants, choosing healthy side shoots and cutting them just above you come to plant, all the tubers will look a leaf joint. A cutting about 3in long is ideal. Choose shoots with no flower buds if you can. If you can't, trim off the flower buds along with the lowest leaves. Then trim each cutting to just below a leaf joint and stick all the cuttings round the edge of a 5in pot of compost. Do not cover. Let the pot soak in a saucer of water until the compost is damp but not saturated. Keep the cuttings somewhere light and frost-free over winter.

> Keeping the plants themselves is a bulkier business, and the method you use depends on the resources available. If you've got a light porch or conservatory, you can just bring the geraniums in, still in their pots, and overwinter them undisturbed. Cut down on the watering, so that the plants just tick over, otherwise they will get very big and leggy. Take off dead leaves and flower heads which might otherwise turn mouldy.

If you don't have that option, lift the plants before the frost gets them, shake the soil from the roots and cut the stems down to about 4in. Get rid of any leaves that are left on these stems. Then cut back the roots by about a third. Line an apple box with newspaper and half fill it with old compost (the contents of a used Growbag are ideal, if you have one) or coir. Stack the cut-down plants in the box, close but not quite touching. Tip some more compost round them and firm it gently down. Water the compost and leave it to drain, before storing the box somewhere light and frost-free.

When the cut-down plants begin to resprout, you can use the new growth to make more cuttings. Then, when frost-free times begin to loom again over the hori-2011, you can pot up the plants and give them more encouragement to grow.

But that all seems a very long way away. Meanwhile, I've got another overwintering problem to solve. The front border is edged with clumps of fat, fleshy, succulent echeverias, as big as cabbages. Somehow, I have to ease these out of the ground and get them into pots for the winter, but without breaking any of their juicy, spoonshaped leaves. And what am I going to do with the baby echeverias that are clustered

WEEKEND WORK

Finish planting spring bedding plants such as wallflowers, polyanthus and forget-me-nots. These last make an excellent undercarpet for tulips, especially the dark mahogany 'Abu Hassan' or the lify-flowered 'White Triumphator'. Water the plants in well. September has been very dry in most parts and wallflowers, generally uprooted from open ground for sale,

will need help in settling into new quarters. Clean up the ground between strawberry rows, getting rid of weeds and unwanted plants that have rooted themselves. Mulch between the rows with well-rotted compost or manure. Lilies are best planted in early October as soon as this year's growth has died down. The problem is getting hold of them. It suits suppliers better to dish them out in spring. The martagon lily is a hardy, lime tolerant basal-rooting species that will thrive in sun or shade. Plant the bulbs about four inches deep and nine inches apart on a sprinkle of sharp sand to deter underground slugs.

CUTTINGS

Derek Longden, of Worthing, writes in

response to my piece about places to sit in the garden (Independent, 12 July). "I was dismayed

to read you have covered your new sitting-out

space with beach pebbles. I believe that the

that therefore it is no more acceptable to

success, readers who may not be fastidious

about their sources of supply, will be inspired

own property ... I should be glad if you would

and encouraged to do similar work on their

I am at fault for assuming that readers

literally as Mr Longden. No. I have not been

would not take the phrase "beach pebbles" as

pebbles were delivered in sacks from our local

gravel merchant. The technical description for

please warn your readers accordingly."

shovelling up the Chesil foreshore. The

the stuff we used is 10/6 grade pea gravel,

available at £3.65 a 40kg sack.

foreshore is owned by the local authority and

collect pebbles for one's terrace than it would

be to take plants from the public gardens or to

steal books from the library ... On noting your

Mulch in spring with compost or leaf mould. The ordinary martagon has dirty purple flowers with ginger anthers, but there is also a lovely white form. L. pyrenaicum is another basal rooting lily tolerant of lime, with greenish yellow flowers spotted with black.

Gather late ripening apples and pears and store them in a cool, dry place, you can keep them in polythene bags with a few holes. I stick to wooden trays and newspaper.

Think about planting more fruit trees. The best specimens are likely to be grown in the open ground and will be lifted for delivery after leaf fall, usually from the first week in November. Cordon-trained apples are ideal for small gardens and make good screens between one part of the garden and another.

Cut back the dying stems of herbaceous perennials and compost them. Do not cut back penstemons. These should be left until March. Cutting back will encourage young growth which could get clobbered by frost.

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(£55). He was off to China, plant-hunting. Plenty of good plants there, he said, that gardeners elsewhere have yet to set eyes on. But it's more of a challenge now to find plants that are both unknown and easy to grow

Zooming up in a lift recently, I met Chris Brickell, editor of Dorling Kindersley's trio of essential reference books, the latest being the fine A-Z Encyclopaedia of Garden Plants

outside their natural habitats. A new book by Brenda McLean, a Fellow at the University of Liverpool, tells the story of an entrepreneur who operated in the golden age of plant collecting: Arthur Bulley (1861-1942) was a Liverpool cotton broker who paid legendary plant-hunters from Sikkim, China and Burma.

Bulley, a philanthropist and active Fabian, established many of these rare plants in his garden on the Wirral, which was always open to the public. Later, he established a nursery to supply as cheaply as possible the plants that he grew in the garden. It is now the University of Liverpool's Botanic Garden.

Bulley, who subscribed to the first Everest expedition, was adept at getting his collectors into the most difficult parts of the world. These included Bhutan, where he sent the young Roland Cooper. Bulley wrote direct to the Maharaja of Bhutan, requesting permission for Cooper to collect in his country, telling him it was "a service to mankind to get the fine things there must be on the Bhutan Himalaya into the gardens of the world". The Maharajah assented and got an Inverness plaid rug for his troubles.

Ms McLean's book, A Pioneering Plantsman, draws on contemporary journals and gives an insight into the great collectors. It is the latest in the series of books on the collectors, sponsored by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and the Stationery Office who publish it, at £79.

# 10/RURAL

# Red alert

A report from the World Wildlife Fund highlights the fact that slack management of deer is resulting in the destruction of acres of Scotland's forests. But that is not the only bad news: the now rutting red deer is diluting itself, reports Daniel Butler.



Photographs: Christopher Jones (above) and Dennis Avon/Ardea (right)

As the final stages of the red deer rut come to an end, Highland keepers are Edinburgh University's Dr Josephine shaking their heads in sorrow. It looks almost certain that yet again, many of next year's calves will be bastards, the result of chance matings between native red hinds and sika stags, originating from the Far East.

The result of the matings between the native "hill" reds and the smaller, der between pure and hybrid. In western greyer sikas, is unpredictable, but areas such as Kintyre, crosses are com-

tends to be a creature halfway between the two in size, with a mixture of the two species' behavioural characteristics. No one is quite sure of the full imof doom warn of dire consequences.

Interbreeding presents both practical and emotional problems. On a pragmatic level, sika are more damaging to forestry: naturally preferring woodland to moor, browsing at a more damaging height, and, being much shyer, therefore difficult to control. In addition, because sportsmen pay handsomely for trophies, were sika genes to reduce antler size, it could affect a vital source of revenue in one of Europe's last wildernesses.

On the more emotional level, hybridisation risks threatening Scotland's distinct "hill" deer, which are smaller and more at home in open ground than other European reds. The problem stems from the sika's original introduction last century, but it was not until recently that the hidden dangers emerged. Now an increasing number of the Scottish red deer herd are being found to have "alien" DNA. "The two species are distinct," explains

Pemberton, who is halfway through a three-year study of Scotland's deer. "Sika are much smaller, and are spotted in summer. In addition they behave and sound very different." At present, she says, Scottish reds can be divided roughly in two, with the A9 marking the bor-

mon: to the east there is little or no hybridisation - so far. Yet she adds that after countless releases of imported animals by Victorian landowners trying plications of the process, but prophets to "improve" their sport, it is doubtful how oure hill deer are in reality.

"It's not just sika which have mixed with the herd," says Andy Rinning, director of the Deer Commission. "For over a century there have also been introductions of related species from Eastern Europe and America." The dangers besetting Scotland's

deer are not unique. "Crosses occur naturally in the wild and there is evidence to show that occasionally it may be important in species' development," explains Mike Bruford, head of the conservation genetics group at Regent's Park's Institute of Zoology. In addition, the injection of fresh genetic material can prove vital for flagging populations. For example, in 1900 Britain's red kite population was reduced to 15 individuals. This was recovering painfully slowly until the Twenties, when a solitary female was blown in by storms from Germany. The fresh genetic material revolutionised breeding success and today numbers are healthy.

But while scientists agree that natural instances of genetic mixing are perfectly acceptable, most feel that a distinction should be drawn between these and the results of man's intervention. A good example of the latter is the ruddy duck, originally imported from Carolina, which now threatens Spain's white-headed duck. "The ruddy is much more ag- introductions of new species."

gressive, and drakes drive off white-head males to mate with their females," says the RSPB's Chris Harbard. "The offspring look like neither parent, but they're fertile and carry on the hybridising process, so within a few generations we could lose the white-

head altogether." Mike Bruford agrees that hybridisation is an all too efficient way of losing a species. He explains that the worst problems come when one species has a numerical advantage over another and swamps it, leading to the rapid loss of pure genes.

In Ireland, in a matter of decades, County Wicklow's red deer have blended completely with imported sikas to produce a herd that is neither one nor the other. But, says Dr Pemberton, there is no evidence this will happen in Scotland: "Given the choice, hybrids tend to stick to their own dominant genes," she says. "So where possible sika 'types' breed either with pure sika or other lookalikes. rather than red deer."

In any event, it is now too late to stem the tide. "It is questionable whether we should waste time and effort trying to prevent the inevitable," she says. "What we can do is prevent damage in areas where we really can make a difference. For example, we should ban any deer releases in the genetically-isolated Outer Hebrides and all

NATURE NOTE

On warm evenings a few bats may still be seen fluttering through the dusk round old buildings and trees; but most have already moved to the caves or disused mine-shafts in which they will spend the winter, and the rest will depart any night now. The mechanics of bat hibernation are still poorly understood. The shortening of daylight hours seems to trigger

> changes in the creatures' metabolism. In the last few weeks female greater horseshoe bats, for instance, have swiftly accumulated a mass of body fat, almost doubling their weight, from about 17 to 32 grams.

Their winter quarters may be up to 40 miles from their summer breeding-grounds; but once a female has chosen a site; she sticks to it for life. Hanging upside down, she will hibernate in a torpor for a week or 10 days at a time, but then emerge at night to fly about and get a drink. Only if really cold weather sets in after Christmas will she stay put for longer periods; and if need be her store of body fat will carry her right

through until early May. **Duff Hart-Davis** 

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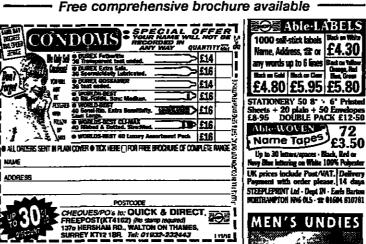
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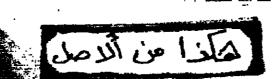


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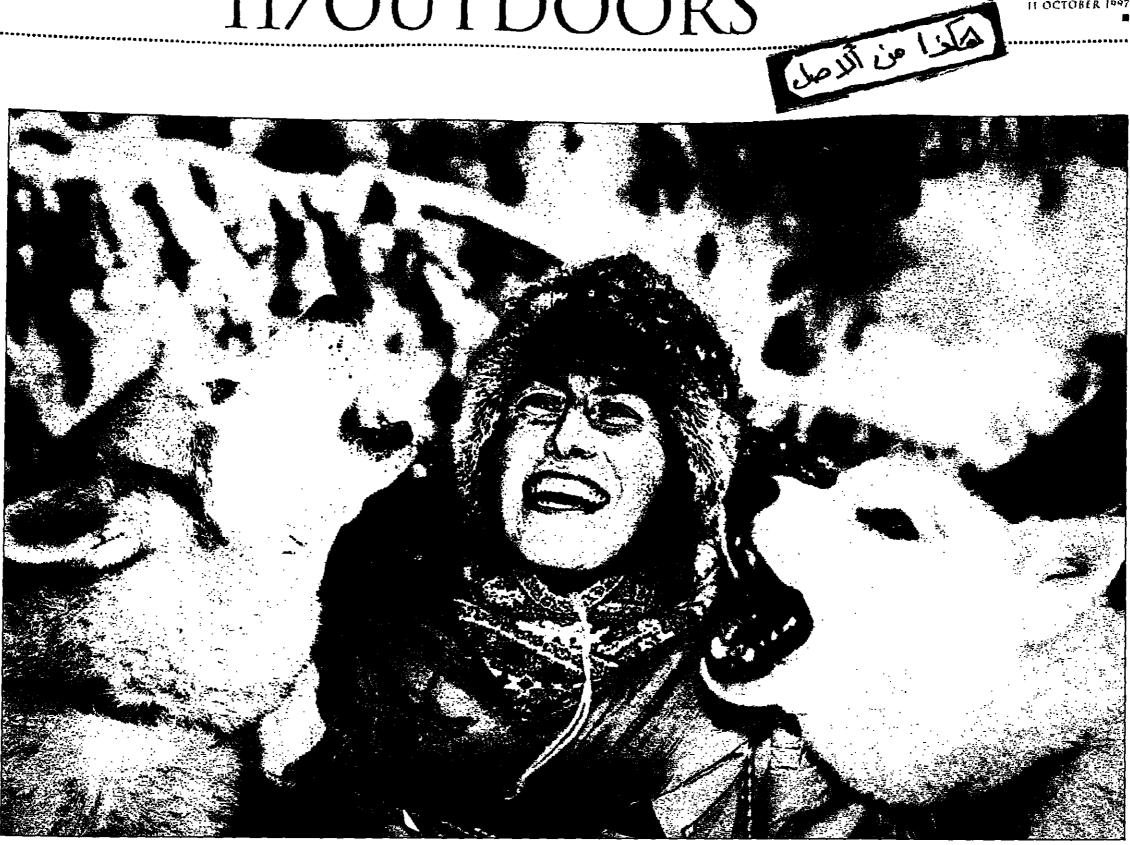


Classified Advertising continues on page 16.



Into the frozen wilderness: Wendy Smith with two of her Alaskan huskies Photograph: Steve Hill/Newsteam

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11/OUTDOORS

# Back from the grave – and into the land of ice

No one has ever driven a team of dogs 6,000 miles across Alaska. Now a young woman is to attempt the trip, to celebrate her recovery from cancer.

If you want to see courage personified, take tinued to run a two-mile circuit round a lake a look at Wendy Smith, who on Tuesday near home. At first she could manage three set off for Alaska to make the first complete transit of the North American con- she could do only tinent under husky power. A strongly-built two, then one. Fi-Englishwoman of 35, with an attractively nally, balf-way gentle voice, she is now at Bird Creek, near Anchorage, training her dog teams for the 6,000-mile marathon; but the fact that she is alive at all represents an extraordinary triumph, as much of determination and will power as of modern medicine.

In 1986, at the age of 24, she joined the army and rose to become a captain, assistant adjutant of 49 Field Regiment, serving in Germany. Then, in 1988, she was diagnosed as having Hodgkin's disease cancer of the lymphatic system. Swelling lymph nodes filled the space between her heart and lungs, and pushed up into her

Until that moment she had been prodigiously fit, running for the army, caving, playing hadminton, and devoting six to eight

ly she was faced with a ghastly regime of chemotherapy, for which she travelled back and forth between her home in Swindon and the Queen Elizabeth military hospital in Woolwich.

In an attempt to defy reality, she con-

**DUFF** 

HART-DAVIS

round the first lap, she collapsed. "I got real jitters there by the water," she recalls, "hecause I had

to admit to myself, trouble." She was on the ground for 20 minutes, "having a good think", before she man-

aged to drag herself home. Like countless other cancer patients, she found that the treatment made her feel sicker than the disease, and reckoned the ordeal the worst she has ever had to face: "I lost my hair, my appearance, my fitness, my energy. I had moments of terrible depression." The nadir came when agonis-

hours a day to physical training. Sudden- infection in the gut: for a week her family thought she was dying, and so did she.

She began to dream about her own funeral: "What surprised me was the fact that the grave, and I kept making these quips

felt that dying would be the easiest option. The "first chink of light" came when she read the jockey Bob Champion's account of how he had beaten cancer and fought back to win the

Grand National. She for the first time, that my body was in big found it inspiring that another immensely physical person had survived the disease.

After nine months a sudden, unexpected recovery set in, and doctors pronounced her cured. Scared that the cancer might return, and that she might not have much time left, she resigned her commission six months early and joined Outward Bound as an instructor.

To find out whether her body would do the things she wanted it to, she ran a halfing abdominal pains were diagnosed as an marathon within a month of leaving hos-housing 250 dogs. at Two Rivers, west of

in the Borneo jungle, and, becoming fascinated by TE Lawrence, followed one of I was so cheerful. I was looking up out of his routes across the southern Jordanian desert on camels. The journey took place about what a dreadful hat so-and-so had on." during Ramadan, and she and her com-Nevertheless, her regime became so appanion neither ate nor drank during daypalling that there were moments when she light hours. She recalls, "Climbing mountains in that climate, without drinking, produces a steep learning curve."

In the past three years she has led treks in Morocco, the Pamirs, the Caucasus and Nepal, gaining the confidence to set up ar expedition of her own. It was a chance sighting of huskies on television that decided her. The dogs seemed to her "to combine adventure with speed, excitement, the wilderness and winter scenery - also to give the chance of an intimate relationship with another species".

She first went to Alaska in the winter of 1993-94, working for free at a kennels where she fed, mucked out and repaired equipment - but also, from her first day. trained huskies. Next winter, 1994-95, she went out again, this time to train young dogs for Rick Swenson, five times winner of the Iditared - the oremier long-distance husky race. Swenson has ultra-modern kennels.

the middle of nowhere". With no road, no communications, no electricity and no water, she learnt to look after herself and her charges the hard way, in temperatures often 40°F below zero.

Now, for her great trek, she has been sold or given 20 Alaskan huskies by some of the world's leading mushers (drivers). After 10 days' training in Alaska, she and her four-man back-up team will drive eastwards in their truck, covering much of their route in reverse.

The starting-point of the trek will be Searsport, on the coast of Maine, whence they will set off on 15 November. The first part of the route will be on dirt tracks, with Wendy - the sole musher - driving from a three-wheeled rig built for her by apprentices at Delta Training in Birmingham. As soon as enough snow is lying, she will transfer to a sledge, which will be much faster. The Canadian police have stipulated that she must have two snow-machines out. one ahead and one behind, to warn other snow-machiners that there are dogs on

Whenever no trail exists, one of the team night the whole party will camp on sites dition. Call 01865 863391 for further details.

pital, went on a couple of mountaincering Fairbanks, but Wendy chose to go off on snow-shood out beside the trail or road. Afcourses, and travelled widely. She led treks her own, with a small pack, to a cabin "in ter a slow start, Wendy is hoping to average 50 miles a day, and to complete the route in six months. Because she will need a lot of fat, to keep out the cold, she will have every excuse for indulging her one serious gastronomic weakness - for mayon-

naise and bacon sandwiches. "We won't hit true wilderness till we get to Whitehorse, in the Yukon," she predicts. "That's when the real adventure will start. We'll travel the final 2,000 miles down the Yukon River, on the ice, and the temperature may hit 70 below." From previous visits she knows that the Yukon is "some mammoth river". a mile wide, with banks in places 400ft high.

As she left England, she professed herself undaunted by the physical hazards ahead. The only thing that frightens her is the possibility that she may fail.

But she has every intention of succeeding. Naturally, she wants to become the first person to make the crossing; but, far more than that, she is determined to show the world that cancer is not invincible, and to lighten other sufferers' darkness by putting out a stunning image of survival".

will forge ahead, breaking a new track. At Funds are still needed to finance the expe-

## Treasure of the birch forest

This autumn, conditions are particularly good for mushrooms. Daniel Butler offers a guide to finding the tasty cep, or 'porcino'. Photograph: John Miller/GPL

Britain's woods at this time of year are full of gold. Across the country wild fungi, worth £15 a kilo wholesale and up to £40 retail, are thrusting their way through pasture and leaf mould. Given this largesse, there for the taking, one might expect a miniature repeat of the Klondike. Certainly that is the situation across the Channel, where every weekend the woods are alive with townsfolk collecting fungi of every conceivable shape, size and colour, both for their own use and for sale.

Things are different here, however. It seems that the British have an innate distrust of wild fungi. Most of us believe the only good mushroom is one which sits safely on the supermarket shelf, neatly wrapped in cling

film and blue plastic. This is pity, because Britain's mild, wer climate is ideally suited to many of the most delicious species of edible fungi, and this autumn conditions are particularly good. September, for example, saw a record crop of ceps (I picked well over 50 kilos in four one-hour forays). This was just the "first flush", and the October rains should trigger another burst of activity.

To take up mushrooming, essentially all you need is a good field guide. Novices, though, almost always make the mistake of collecting far too much. The result is that when they try to identify the two dozen species in their basket, the process takes hours, with the majority of the haul remaining in the "not sure" pile. Of those identified with absolute certainty, the chances are that none will be edible. A far more sensible introduction

is to search for just one particularly edible type. At this time of year this might be chanterelles (on gently sloping mossy banks beneath oak, chestnut or beech), parasols (in rough unimproved pasture) or, best of all, ceps (along damp woodland edges and hedgerows).

The last, Boletus edulis – sometimes known by its Italian name of porcino - is the perfect beginner's mushroom. Not only is it one of the best-tasting species of wild fungi, but it is relatively common and completely unmistakable, and when the ceps begin to "flush", the crop from a small area can be phe-

Although ceps vary tremen-

dously in size (from a couple of inches to more than a foot in height), even beginners should have no trouble with identification. Most obviously, they have spongy gills totally unlike those of any shopbought button mushroom, which are white at first before gradually turning yellow. As for shape, they have a bulbous cap sitting on top of a thick, smooth stalk which is pale and streaked faintly with fawn (avoid any hint of red). Meanwhile, the colour of the cap can vary from a pale café-au-lait to a dark chocolate. There is only one mushroom, the brown birch bolete, which can seriously be confused with a cep, and this is also edible (if not so good). The mushroom is nor-

> maily found along woodland edges and hedgerows. According to the guides, it prefers deciduous trees, hut my best spots are all on mossy banks below Norway spruce plantations. Disused railway lines are another excellent place to begin looking – as

are golf courses. "There's a bit of a knack finding them at first," says Clive Houlder. Britain's only fulltime wild mushroom

gatherer and dealer. "But once you've spotted your first, you're away - it doesn't take long to tune your eyes in."

Those who don't yet have the knack, however, might take comfort from a fungi course. Many wildlife trusts run autumn forays - two- or three-hour walks with a local mycologist who will point out interesting species and give lessons in identification. For more information, contact your local wildlife trust or the national headquarters in Lincoln on 01522 544400.

Such forays rarely focus on edible species, however, and many conservation bodies frown on widespread harvesting - particularly on nature reserves. More can be learned on one of the growing number of residential courses around the country, usually based around the skills of one expert. One of the most experienced of these is Dr Patrick Harding, a mycologist at Sheffield University who runs weckend courses.

Typically, these start on a Friday evening with a slide show and lecture. Next morning there is a talk on collection techniques, then a threehour foray. After lunch, the results of the hunt are laid out in family groups, followed by a talk on edible species. On the Sunday he concludes with a talk on the folklore associations. For details, send an sae to Dr Harding at 36 Marshall Road, Sheffield \$8 OGN.



# Go with the flow

If the idea of abseiling down a waterfall appeals to you, try canyoning. Eric Kendall reports on a cold, wet, terrifying sport ... that's totally addictive.

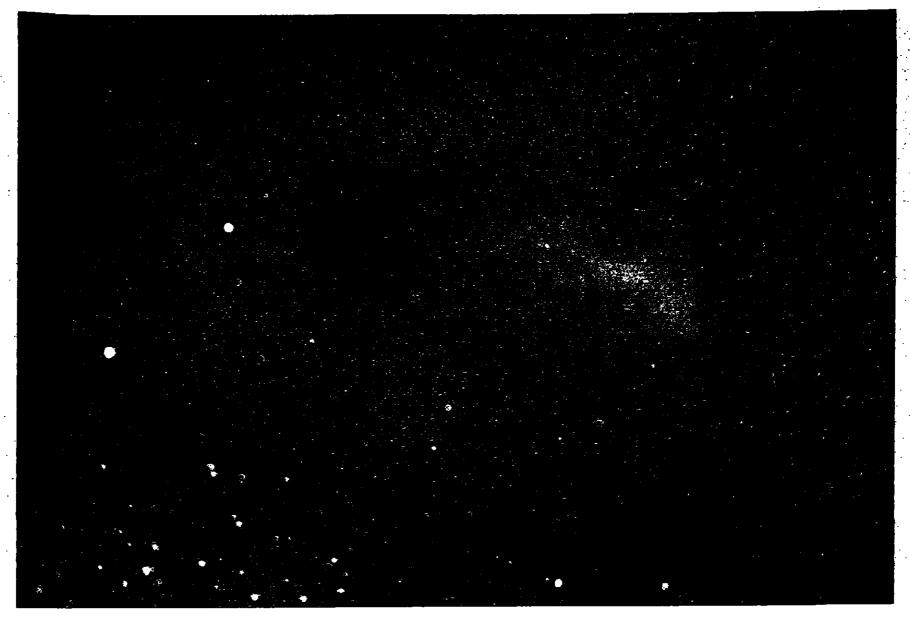
The rope is taut, water is tugging at your ankles and the cliff edge under your feet is like greased Teflon. There's only one way to go, and that's down.

Welcome to canyoning. If you ever fancied the thrills of caving while still being able to admire the view, this is the answer. Simply follow the course of a small river, coping with natural obstacles along the way, from boulders and deep pools to rapids and waterfalls.

The inevitable cold of the water takes your breath away, but it's the first big drop that concentrates the mind for all but habitual abseilers. Being lowered off a cliff is even worse when you're shin-deep in water, near a thundering torrent which will soon engulf you.

And that's the nub of it: this is a full-on experience. No extra batteries or qualifications are required, beyoud the most basic level of fitness through granite and splitting moun- Lake District and Scotland all pro- trolling your own rate of descent and a willingness to step into the void. For novices, all the tricky stuff is dealt with by the guide.

think of anything else. Having a riv- are ideal for canyoning. Spain is also er empty its contents down the back riddled with good terrain and has of your neck while you dangle helprating, violent. Now the unlikely of appropriate river, which is no bad process of erosion carving gorges thing for first-timers. Wales, the



tain ranges becomes comprehensible, even obvious.

Given their combination of melt-When the water hits, you can't water and vertical drops, the Alps the perfect climate; the UK's small-

vide opportunities. Wherever you go, a bit of rain upstream can change conditions from tame to suicidal in a few hours, so be prepared to change your itinerary at short no-

With a bit of experience some lessly on a rope is shocking, exhila- er mountains mean shorter sections routes will be within reach of competent climbers, whose abseiling abilities will come in handy - con-

rather than being lowered, sack-ofpotato-like, is not only more rewarding but ensures the guide can't leave you spinning on the end of the rope for everyone's amusement, driven like a turbine by the relentless flow of battering water.

But for most people canyoning will remain a professionally accompanied adventure. Fast-flowing wa-

ter and tricky terrain make safety the right on submerged boulders will reparamount issue, and then there's the required equipment: wetsuits and climbing gear in an alpine gorge make you look like Jacques Cousteau on the set of The Eiger Sanction; in milder climates lightweight, fast-drying outdoor clothing is adequate; climbing gear is still es-

sential. Footwear is critical: staying upWhite riot: no qualifications are required for canyoning, but you must be prepared to step into a void

Photograph: Nigel Shepherd

sluice you along. You still appreciate the forces involved, but this time they propel you rather than batter you. You don't even need to be a good swimmer to go for a walk m a river - so go and find out what water's really made for.

Who to carryon with Nigel Shepherd (01286 872393) guides canyoning trips at home and

Craft na Caber (01887 830588). Kenmore, Scotland runs a local trip. Canyoning in Britain is often mixed with other activities - biking, walking, climbing - since the sections of river that can be tackled are relatively short.

Various operators run adventure sport holidays that include canyoning in the Alps and Spain: Tall Stories (01932 252002); Alp Active (01223 568220); Plus Travel (0171-259 1099); High Trax (01433 670186).

What to take

Climbing gear - helmer, barness, ropes, etc-available from climbing shops. Given the battering this gets, it's probably best to go with an organised group where equipment is supplied; the same goes for wetsuits.

For footwear and clothing, try specialists such as Ellis Brigham (0171-240 9577) and Snow & Rock (0171-937 0872). Water sports boots are ideal; trainers will do. Lowe Alpine's Dryflo T-shirts and long johns have extra warmth and quickdrying properties. Lightweight waterproof clothing won't keep you dry but will reduce wind chill. Avoid cotton clothing - it stays wet.

### **GAMES**

### BAWN O'BEIRNE RANELAGH DON'T JUNK IT - USE IT

For readers new to the "Don't Junk It -Use It" concept, this is the column that justifies your decision never to throw anything away. For older readers, the first line of today's design may help to explain what I have been doing for the past few

1. First, drink 172 bottles of wine. having taken care when extracting their corks (ideally with a "butler's friend" type of cork fork), and assemble the corks.

2. Drill holes through their centres. 3. String the corks together in lines. As corks come in different sizes, check to ensure your lines are all the same length. Leave a little space between each pair of corks and put a figure of eight knot at each end of the line to stop the corks sliding off.

4. Using fresh pieces of string, tie double half-hitches between the corks to tie the lines together.

5. Untie the figure-of-eight knots and attach a string border to the outside of the mat, as plain or fancy as you wish.



The cork cork-mat, a combined bathmat, foot massager and excuse for wine-drinking

#### WIN A SCULPTURE PUZZLE

Computer-scanned and sliced, Sculpture Puzzles, from the Really Useful Games Company, really do bring a new dimension to iigsaws. The latest addition to their catalogue - timed to coincide with the release of an enhanced version of the Star Wars video, is a dark and threatening bust of Darth Vader, as seen above, nearly completed by Emily Shield of Ascot, encouraged by her father, David.

We have one copy of this attractive Sculpture Puzzle to give away to the reader who can come up with the funniest anagram



of "Darth Vader Sculpture". Entries should be sent to: Sculpture Puzzle, Saturday Games, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, closing date 20 October.

#### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

duce the day's pain levels signifi-

cantly. Water sports shoes such as

Salomon's Exydro provide fierce

grip and drain freely once out of the

water. Drybags are essential for

cameras and other precious cargo.

available, cutting out or skirting

round the sheer drops and making

the most of natural aqua-zooms to

Gentler variations are, of course,

Richard Meade, 58, triple Olympic three-day event gold medallist

Dogs like to play games, and if it's all done in a light-hearted way, then they thoroughly enjoy it. Our terrier puppy's game is to come and grab your hand, then she wants to be chased until she rolls over and lets you dribble her like a football. It's great fun.

We have a lurcher and a labrador, and their games are very different. Lurchers love chasing things, which is what they're bred to do. Ours is perfectly normal in daylight, but at night she behaves like a mad thing, and given the opportunity she'll rush out of the door in full cry. They're poachers' dogs, used for working after dark.

The last one we had was a gentle dog, but if any of the family were having a water-fight or something, he'd get quite steamed up about it, and you had to be very careful that he didn't try to join in and bite somebody, which he'd then very

much regret; and which we'd rather regret too. Labradors are wonderful with

children, and do not mind being clambered over, but I'm careful not to play silly games with ours because she's got a serious job of work to do. If you have gun-dogs, it's important to keep that side of things separate, and do nothing that in any way conflicts with their job as retrievers.

If you're consistent in your approach to dogs, then they respond tremendously well and will understand the difference between work and play. The analogy between children and animals is useful: both want to feel confident and secure and to have a structure to their lives, so it's important not to make fools of them, or do silly things that undermine their roles. But they must have fun.

Stray and unwanted dogs and cats may be handed in at the Dogs' Home Battersea at any time (0171-738-8759).

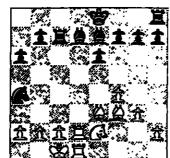
### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

Michael Adams has been having one of the best performances of his career in Tilburg over the past couple of weeks. He has, in the past, scored some fine first places in events of mixed strength, but his undefeated score of 6<sup>1</sup>/2 points from 10 games in Tilburg, in a field that includes the world's top two players and full supporting cast, is outstanding.

In the 10th round, Adams improved his standing with a quick win against the top French unpretentious choice of opening led some observers to believe that he was willing to settle for a quick draw, but his early exchange of queens left him with a slight, nagging pressure that Lautier was unable to throw

Generally, if White enters an endgame in this type of Sicilian position, he does not want his pawn on f4 where it may be a target, or at least weaken White's potential control of the central white squares. On this occasion, however, Adams had appreciated some delicate features of the position.

After 8.Nxd4, his threat of Nh5 persuaded Black to play ao. after which White's development of his bishop to g2 put the black Q-side under pressure. The crucial moment came with 17.Ne2 (see diagram), unblocking the d-file and preventing Black from castling. Happy that his bishop was at last free to 11 Bg2 Nxe4 advance without being captured



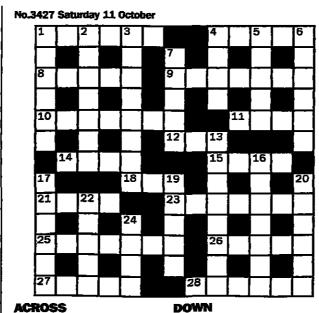
by the knight, Lautier rushed out with 17...Bb5? (any of Bf6, Bc5 player, Joel Lautier. Adams's or Bc8 would be better) and found himself in trouble after 18.Bd4!

> The double threat of 19.Bxg7 or 19.Be5 forced 18...f6, when 19.b3! led to acute embarrassment. After 19...Nes 20.Bxc5 Black must lose either a pawn after 20...Rxc5 21.Bxb7 or a rook after 20...Bxc5 21\_Rd8+.

> Lautier tried to muddy the waters with 19...Bb4, but Adams ended with a clean kill. 23\_.g6 24.Bxf6 or 23...Ke7 24.Bc5+ is

> White: Michael Adams Black: Joel Lautier 13 Bf3 Bd7 1 e4 ట్ 2 Nc3 e6 14 0-0-0 Rc8 3 f4 d5 15 Rd2 Rc7 4 Nf3 dxe4 16 Rhd1 Na4 17 Ne2 Bb5 5 Nxc4 Be7 6 d4 cxd4 18 Bd4 f6 7 Qxd4 Qxd4 19 b3 Bb4 8 Nxd4 a6 20 bxa4 Bxd2 9 Be3 Nd7 21 Rxd2 Bxa4 10 g3 Ngf6 22 Nc3 Bc6 23 Bh5+ resigns 12 Bxe4 Nc5

### CONCISE CROSSWORD



Horse's pace (6) Fruit (5) Light amplification device (5)
Doubter (7) 10 Sculpture (7)

11 Mail (4) 12 Tree (3) Banner (4)

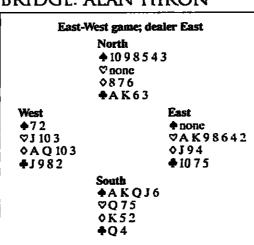
15 18th century queen (4) 18 Health resort (3) 21 Cereal crop (4) 23 Adult (5-2) 25 Mosque tower (7)

26 Change (5) 27 Recess (5) 28 Short sight (6)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Belle, 4 Eving (Belving), 10 Jupiter, 11 Later, 12 Coypu, 13 Spaniel, 15 Cute, 17 Cider, 19 Reign, 22 Guts, 25 Batsmen, 27 Tacin, 29 Timon, 30 Unarmed, 31 Ascot, 32 Nylon, DOWN: 2 Empty, 3 Lettuce, 5 Yalta, 6 Netting, 7 Eject, 8 Tryst, 9 Droll, 14 Pert, 16 Urge, 18 Isthmus, 20 Estuary, 21 Abate, 23 Undue, 24 Study, 26 Mango, 28 Carneo.

### BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



This deal proved a valuable addition to my stock of hard luck stories. South planned the play intelligently, but he was misled by an even more intelligent defence.

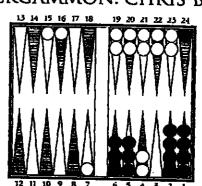
East opened Three Hearts, South overcalled with Three Spades and North raised directly to the slam. West led !J against Six Spades and declarer ruffed his three losing hearts on the table, coming to hand each time with a trump.

Prospects did not look good: East, marked with A.K. could hardly hold #A as well after his pre-emptive opening. However, South saw that he could bring pressure to bear on West if he held four or more clubs as well as #A. South played off his last three trumps. If West had come down to four clubs and #A alone. declarer planned to lead a low diamond from hand to establish his king.

Thinking ahead, West saw the danger. He had already parted with #3 on the third trump and his next two discards were carefully chosen. He threw 22 and followed with #Q. Convinced that West had started with five clubs and that #A was now bare, South led #2.

To his chagrin, he lost two diamond tricks and found that he could have taken four club tricks for his contract.

### BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

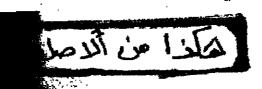


At first glance Black's position here does not look as if he can take a double from White, and in the chouette from which this position was taken, three of the team passed when doubled. One brave man took. He promptly escaped his back man with a 65, and White missed the shot and had to pass the subsequent redouble. But who was right?

Black has two things in his favour. He leads in the race by 51 pips and he still has a four-point board. However, if he can't escape his back man, the racing lead will become meaningless and his fragile home board will quickly deteriorate - he may even be forced to expose a second blot. There are many sequences where White will have lost his market by his next turn, so the double. here is mandatory.

Has Black got enough winning variations to give him a take? His plan is to escape his back man and not get hit. On each roll he will have a 30 per cent chance of throwing a six and escaping from White's home board. If he hasn't escaped within three rolls he is likely to find himself either behind a six-point prime or on the bar facing a closed board. When White moves a man from his 21-point into the outer boards, Black can gain time by pointing on the remaining man, or by picking and passing (hitting and moving the blot to safety).

The answer to all of this is that Black will in fact win from this position 30 per cent of the time, giving him a reasonably comfortable take. If the spare man on his five-point were on his two-point he would have a borderline take, and if both the spare men on his five- and six-points were on his one- and two-points he would then have to drop. The flexibility provided by those two men in the original position turns out to be critical. This is an excellent benchmark position for "one man back" problems - file it for future



Cotton cloth (6)

Drink (4)

Proportion (5)

Custom (5)

Hard wood (8)

Widespread (6)

20 Greek city state (6)

Gemstone (5)

Costume (5)

24 At liberty (4)

Sailing vessels (6)

Uninterruptedly (3-4)

Breathing aperture (7)

Personal ornaments (8)



# An eye for an eye

To help turn holiday snaps into Magnum masterpieces, Andrew Hosson (above), a professional behind the lens, brings the range of courses for amateurs into focus.

It's a task that usually takes only a fraction of a second, yet the results of taking one photograph can be magical. Sometimes, even the memory of a lost photograph can evoke a multitude of emotions. I'm lucky enough to earn a living taking pictures, but for some it's a hobby they just want to be better at.

Many years ago, while working as a photographer on a local paper. I was asked to teach a six-week evening course. I had no previous teaching experience but I quickly found out what my pupils really wanted. They didn't, of course, intend to photograph war, celebrities and semi-naked girls. They didn't want to be professional photographers. And they weren't interested in carrying around heavy equipment. They wanted a photograph to look like they thought it did through the viewfinder. They wanted pictures of their families and friends that wouldn't induce groans of "Oh no, here we go again, hurry up". And they wanted to be on holiday, or on a day out, and take pictures that would serve as more than memory joggers.

My own advice is fairly straightforward. For landmove to a different position and try again. Get down on your knees or try to get a bit of extra height -stand on a rock, perhaps, or a chair. Take the view with plenty of sky, then try it with hardly any. Shoot lots and sure the dictures are shard.

For a portrait, check that the settings on the camera and flash are correct before asking your subject to hold still. If you spend a lot of time messing around with knobs and dials you'll end up with a picture of someone looking bored and fed up. My golden rule is that it doesn't matter what else is in focus as long as the subject's eyes are sharp. If you're taking pictures of children, get down to their level.

Lastly, when you get your pictures back from being developed, pluck up the courage to throw away the ones that aren't any good. They'll only gather dust and get in the way of your best achievements. If you get back from holiday with just a few excellent pictures, then show them off - and them only.

And these days you can learn how to take better pictures by actually going on holiday. From Wales to the Peruvian rainforest, photography holidays come

in many shapes and sizes. Phil Parish Photography (01945 585052) in Wisbech has one- and two-day workshops for complete novices (with use of a black-and-white darkroom). Prices range from £45. Accommodation is available nearby and there are some facilities for disabled people.

Acorn Activities, of Hereford (01432 830083), offers a two-day course, with an on-site studio, processing facilities and "use of the latest equipment". As well as the disciplines of landscape and portrait, the course also covers "dramatic action" photography. Tuition costs £100 and there is a choice of nearby farmhouse or hotel accommodation, from £22 and £32 respectively.

HF Holidays, based in London (0181-905 9556), will take you to areas of outstanding natural beauty across the country (some walking is involved here). In the evenings discussions are held with knowledgeable and enthusiastic "leaders". Prices start at £320 for sev-

The Field Studies Council has several centres in England and Wales, concentrating mainly on landscape and nature photography. The council also runs an underwater week in Pembrokeshire in August, a black-andwhite course at Flatford Mill in Suffolk and, intriguingly, a course in photographing fungi in Shropshire. Prices range from £250 per week, full board. Weekend courses are also possible.

The same organisation also offers tuition abroad, for those with a little more experience and larger budscapes, first of all take your picture of the view, then gets. The overseas programme has more specialised teaching and concentrates on wildlife. Destinations include the Alps, the Pyrenees, New Hampshire and Spitzbergen. Last year's 18-day trip up the Amazon was priced at £3.980, while a fortnight in the Peruvian

Photo Travellers (01483 425448) in Godalming operates holidays "designed by photographers, for photographers". The programme varies annually, featuring destinations "from the Azores to Zanzibar". Prices range from a modest £495 for a spring break in Cyprus, to the rather deeper pocketed £3,295 which will give you access to the wildlife of the Falkland Islands.

None of the companies featured here had hardand-fast requirements for equipment. Liz Ballard, travel director of Photo Travellers, said "Some people come with compact cameras, and others with masses of lenses, it makes no difference. We try to help them see a potential picture that they wouldn't otherwise have noticed. The equipment isn't that important."

Photographers with masses of experience - your tutors and possibly your fellow holidaymakers - can make that pleasurable 125th of a second last you a lifetime. You'll have a holiday to change the way you see your



Seal, photographed by David Sandison: for portraits, it doesn't matter what else is in focus, so long as the eyes are sharp

## Where the riverbank is wallpaper

If it's peace you're after, consider the village of Kelmscott, in the upper reaches of the Thames. Cive Fewins explores the muddy source of William Morris's inspiration.

We were not expecting to be confronted with skies of East Anglian proportions in a corner of Oxfordshire. However, this was the rather remote corner of the county near Lechlade, where it meets Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. The roads are sparse here, reflecting the fen-like nature of the countryside, and the fields are large and flat.

The area was even more maccessible in William Morris's day. The great arts and crafts pioneer had seen what he called "the old house by the Thames" in a dream, and eventually made Kelmscott Manor his country home for the last 25

years of his life. We set out on our walk to try to imbibe some of the qualities of this quiet stretch of countryside, which Morris referred to as his "earthly paradise". Kelmscott village is a collection of a few cottages and farmhouses. Most of them enclose a large central area of paddocks, closes and what are now back gardens, all surrounded by a straggling circular lane. And at the far corner of the village is Kelmscott Manor, a few yards up a metalled track leading to the River Thames. There are no shops. ple sustenance, as we were to discover at the end of our walk.

We parked near The Plough and set off along a marked track. We passed two cottages on our left, then the track met a field, at which point we turned sharp left along a field path, again clearly marked, that led directly to the Thames.

Be prepared for a surprise here. The first small footbridge is over a drainage channel that one might at first mistake for the stripling Thames. At the far end of the next field a far grander sight awaits you a new and rather splendid footbridge that spans the river. It is of ample height, so that the cabin cruisers that frequent this part of the river in summer can pass beneath it.

We did not cross the bridge. Instead we took the towpath - you cannot miss it, as the Thames Path follows the north bank of the river at this point - to the west.

It is said that Morris was inspired by the willows, the reed beds and the sedges along this section of the Thames. The dun colours of so many of his finest designs were derived from this countryside as he punted along the river on summer afternoons, rod and line to hand. In his long riverbank walks he would gather grasses, leaves, twigs and other natural materials from the hedgerows and take them back to the manor, where he would turn them into dves.

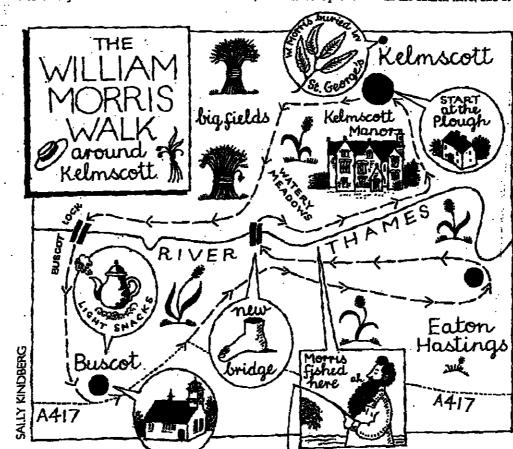
My reveries about this were shortly interrupted by a father and son combination, en route to the

complete the 160 miles by the end came to the neatly tended Buscot Lock, where we were able to cross the river and amble up the lane to the group of houses that comprise Buscot Village

In fact they are - or were - noth-

and park just on the other side of of the week. A mile or so later we the nearby A417 Farringdon-Lechlade road. Now, however, the National Trust-owned hamlet sports a post office and a separate shop. To our delight, we found that the shop

also serves hot coffee. Refreshed, we walked up the In the church here, one of Mor-



But there is a pub that provides am- Thames Barrier, determined to ing but a satellite of the great house A417 for a quarter of a mile before taking a sharp left turn (again, there is a sign indicating a footpath) down towards Buscot Wharf, Almost immediately we left this track, taking a path across the centre of a newly-harvested field towards the dis-

tant hamlet of Eaton Hastings.

Edward Burne-Jones, created two small windows for Morris's company during restoration work in 1872-74. Eaton Hastings today is more a collection of scattered cottages than a village. A multitude of odd bumps in the nearby fields indicates a previously much bigger settlement.

From Eaton Hastings we retraced our steps along the south bank of the river, eventually turning right to cross the new footbridge leading over the Thames to Kelmscott. Before crossing the river we stood on the site of a riverside pub, burnt down in the Seventies and never rebuilt. Perhaps this was because the site was too remote to do good business in the late 20th century.

On the other bank it was an easy half-mile walk to Kelmscott Manor. Our first view of the old house was from the riverbank, rising up among the poplars, its Jacobean gables standing sedately above the high wall that encloses the grounds. A pair of sparrowhawks were swooping over fields to the rear. Our route back to up a small rise. The Plough, and our car, lay along the left fork at the end of the lane. First, though, we strolled past the pub, viewing the row of cottages which were built in 1902, in memory of Morris, six years after be died. A carving of their bearded source of inspiration adorns the front.

At the end of the road stands the Plough Inn. small Norman church of St George. In 1889 Morris, who had founded the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings in 1877, kept a 1135 (SU 29/39)

ris's lifelong friends and collaborators, watchful eye over a restoration of the building. Morris, his wife Jane and two daughters, May and Jenny. are buried beneath a simple, ridgeshaped gravestone supported on low blocks created by his lifelong friend, architect and designer of the Morris cottages, Philip Webb.

From Kelmscott take track to the north of The Plough Inn. Turn left, following the footpath sign when the track joins a field. Cross a wooden footbridge over the stream. Continue towards the Thames. Do not cross the main footbridge. Instead take the path along the north bank for one nule towards Buscot Lock. Cross river at the lock and take the track up to Buscot.

Tian left at the junction with A 417 and follow the road for a quarter-mile. When a track leads off left back towards the river, take the field path leading north-east towards Eaton Hastings. Pars over a footbridge across a tributary of the Thames. A vellow arrow to the left marks the path. Follow this path

Take the stile through a hedge and follow the path towards church. From here return via the same track, but this time follow the path on the south bank of the Thames until you reach the big. new footbridge across to Kelmscott. Then follow the north bank for half a mile until you reach Kelmscott and the

Length of walk: about six miles. Maps. Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 163. Pathfinder sheet

# Testaments to its historic past clutter the front entrance like knick-knacks on a mantelpiece



ROWBOTTOM

WEMBLEY

Wembley. History. Wembley. marble plinths commemorating forehand, are gone. Redevel-nents for the 12 minutes of History. The words merge into

Those now in charge of the old stadium feel the need to stress the point, styling it "The Venue Of Legends". But even making England's arena sound like the latest challenging bestseller by Erich Von Daniken cannot spoil the sense of place. Naff veneer over

Wembley is not tacky. Wembley, its twin towers greying like long-kept wedding cake pillars,

Testaments to its historic past clutter the front entrance like knick-knacks on a mantlepiece. Either side of the blackand-red bossed doors which have swung open for a generation of team coaches stand

the 1948 Olympics.

Craning up at the list of winners last Sunday, I noted the name of Fanny Blankers-Koen, mother-of-two and original housewife superstar, who answered those who said she was too old at 30 to win any medals by taking four on the Wembley track - all gold .

The door itself bore a more transitory memorial left over from last month's match against Moldova - "We'll Do It For You, Diana". Above, the plaque marking the 1966 World Cup finals, with those sweet concluding words. Winners: England. The 39 steps up which Bob-

by Moore walked to receive that trophy from the Queen, and the ledge on which he so fastidiously wiped his hands be-

oped into seating.

Thus, for the 180 children and adults offered the chance to experience the stadium at first hand last weekend through a Coca-Cola competition, the promise of "climbing the famous" someone said, looking around. Wembley steps" was misleading. But all the rest was the real thing, Sorry, I mean the ultimate footballing dream. No, I mean... well, you know what I mean.

For the first time in Wembley's history, Portugal were offered the home changing-room before their match. On this occasion, however, the national title was a hadge of convenience for a team of 14 and 15year-olds randomly combined from the list of competition

As "France", their oppo-

Wembley action allotted to them, prepared across the corridor, there was a brief oppor-

"Not much, are they?" Blue paintwork, plain cream walls. A clock. Call them old-fashioned if you like - Wembley's changing-rooms

are the sort of environment in

which you could still imagine

the Tottenham Double side

tunity to take in some historical

"Everybody can look at the bath and showers," an official announced. Everybody did. Burgundy tiles you would

want to take a mallet to. And a strong smell of toilets. So this was where our England heroes

here," said a lad with ginger hair. But it wasn't, partic-

As the teams stood beside the pitch awaiting their cue, one of the Football Association coaches who had helped in their preparation shouted out to them. "Come in the tunnel boys. Let's do it properly." Back they filed into the white, caterpillar tent which ushers Gascoigne and Co into the stadium on noisier occasions.

"Go for it, boys," said another coach. "Full out attack. We are at Wembley, probably for the only time in your life." The main stand was sprin-

kled with friends and relatives. The MC commentating on the matches was relaxed - "so here come the blues... blues attack-

was in!". But there was no mistaking the nervousness in the faces of those who waited, bouncing footballs, blowing out air sharply. They were doing it properly.

Celebrations were also observed properly throughout the afternoon Some teams favoured the mass sprint in a line and dive. For individual goalscorers, shirts tugged madly up over the face were de rigeur – that Fabrizio Ravanelli has a lot to answer for. One scorer did a Ravanelli to reveal a specially prepared T-shirt of Ian Wright. That Ian Wright has a lot to answer for, too,

come to think of it. When Wembley is reduced to its listed towers and rebuilt as the National Stadium - it

"It's nice round the back ing now\_Oooh! I thought that could happen any millennium now - the Sunday footballers who got to tread its steeply cambered pitch will retain something precious.

The events which took place will also prove richly rewarding for photographic developers around the country - there were probably more pictures taken than on a big interna-

"Mind my grass Mum," said one of the Romanian team under-16 girls - as they left the field, handing over a handful of sacred turf before climbing Wembley's - relatively famous steps. "Well done, Vicky!" shouted another Mum as the rest of the players filed

Wembley. History. Vicky. It was a good mix.

# Lara dispute puts West Indies cricket at new low

Brian Lara's entries in the batting record books are in danger of being matched by his catalogue of indiscipline. Now he has had his nomination as the West Indies captain overruled. This is not the best of times for cricket in the Caribbean.

Brian Lara noted something self-evident here the other day. "Anything pertaining to Brian Lara gets into the news, it seems," he said, a reference to

Cricket Board's decision to reject its selectors' nomination of Lara as captain for the forthcoming tour of Pakistan and Sharjah, in favour of Courtney Walsh's retention, and his subsequent reported comment that he was disappointed and that it would be written in the record books as "unfortunate".

There was immediate and in dignant reaction in Jamaica, Walsh's home island. The matter came to a delicate head in pointedly sent his vice-captain Trinidad and Tohago skipper, in their match in the current Red Stripe Bowl tournament.

Walsh claimed he was in the loo at the time but, since he did not attend the pre-match meeting with the referee either, not many bought the explanation. It was widely interpreted as a deliberate and, as far as the crowd was concerned, deserved snub. Lara was heckled and there was delighted satisfaction when he was out first ball.

The team leaves for Pakistan on 26 October for four one-day internationals and three Tests, to be almost immediately fol-

tween its respected captain and condemnation" after incidents most experienced member and its best and most dynamic batsman has the potential to undermine morale completely.

The WICB president, Pat Rousseau, has sought to have an urgent meeting between the two, and Lara has moved to smooth things over, saying he had "a very quiet chat with Courtney on the issue and I am spect I have always had for

The selectors' choice of Lara reflected general popular opinion outside Jamaica, but it was based more on the appreciation that Walsh, a fast bowler, now the latest of the several con- 34 and in his 13th year of Test troversies that have enveloped cricket, is near the end of his career and Lara, for all his tem-It concerns the West Indies peramental instability, is the obvious, if not only, successor.

They must have been tempted to resign en bloc after the Board's rare rebuff, but the

### BY TONY **COZIER**

chairman, Wes Hall, the tear-Kingston last weekend, when away fast bowler of the 1960s, Walsh, also the Jamaica captain, simply commented: "The selectors nominate a captain in the out to toss with Lara, the full knowledge that it is the prerogative of the Board to pick that captain or any other

captain". Although Lara has been groomed for leadership since he became Trinidad and Tobago's youngest captain at 20 and led West Indies A team to Zimbabwe a year later, the Board members are clearly wary of his list of continuing disciplinary lapses that is as long as that of his batting records. He was fined 10 per cent of

his tour fee when he temporarily abandoned the team in England in 1995; he was given a written reprimand that stiplowed by the home series ulated that any further breach against England, and a split be-"would attract the strongest

during last year's World Cup when Richie Richardson quit as captain and Andy Roberts was sacked as coach; and he was again fined 10 per cent of his match fee for turning up late prior to the first Test against Sri Lanka last June.

The one alternative to Lara when Walsh does finally call it a day would be Carl Hooper, the sure he is aware of the great re- enigmatic 30-year-old allrounder who, after 10 years of underachievement in international cricket, has shown increasing signs of consistency. But his status is also open to question after a report from a tournament official that, in a protest over fees, he refused to play in the Hong Kong Sixes last month, in which he was the appointed captain.

He has denied it and is threatening legal action, but the Board is still awaiting an explanation of why he turned up, did not play, and handed over the captaincy to Philo Wallace.

The inauguration of the Red Stripe Bowl, the regional oneday tournament that has introduced coloured uniforms, white balls, black sightscreens and the shortened game to the Caribbean for the first time, might have been enough to deflect such negativity. Instead, it has had troubles of its own.

The stipulation of the sponsors, the brewers of the Jamaican beer, that the semi-finals and final must be played in Jamaica over the five vears of its contract has predictably generated a storm of protest from the rest of the Caribbean. In addition, the Board's already shaky reputation for organisational skills was further diminished when one of the opening matches had to be postponed because the team outfits were not delivered on time and another was delayed because someone forgot to bring along the balls.

These have not been encouraging times for West Indies



The way they were: Brian Lara (right) congratulates Courtney Walsh after his dismissal of England's Alec Stewart during the second Test in Guyana in 1994 Photograph: Graham Morris

## The South Atlantic high is in the wrong place



GRANT DALTON

The skipper of Merit Cup describes how the wind is playing more tricks than usual on the first leg of the Whitbread Round the **World Race** 

and half-way through leg one, I would have expected a clearer picture to have emerged who's fast and a threat and must be watched every step of the way, who's off the pace and in need of a miracle or two. If normal weather patterns

had a pretty good idea by now. But first the light, shifting winds and now the south-eastcrly headwinds have denied us this vital information. Unusual weather is the story of the leg 80 far. All we have learned since we left Southampton is that you can't trust the weather.

Our navigator, Mike Ouilter, still has a touching faith in the weather doing what it's supposed to do, in spite of mount-Those 20-mile losses in six hours, which we all experienced in the first 10 days had nothing to with performance or crew, but just about the wind and where you happened to be

After almost two weeks at sea Toshiba and Swedish Match, is tremendous. The movement for example, cannot be written off. Silk Cut is hanging in there, uncomfortably close even though for days there has been 100 miles between them and the front three yachts.

The forecast is for more headwinds for the next few had prevailed, we would have days. We are hoping that they will continue at least until we get to 35 degrees S. Our current discomfort is

brought about by the South Atlantic high. It's in the wrong place! It should be further north and to the east, giving us south-easterlies off the top of it. If it was further north and to the east, we would be reaching across the back of it towards the next mark and then running around the bottom of ing evidence that it doesn't, it to Cape Town. That's what we expected, but it's certainly not what we've got.

Whitbread 60s are not designed for this sort of work. They're built to sail fast off the wind and a beat really hammers both the yacht and the It's not helping us to get a crew. The noise as we crash off handle on the opposition. the waves in this moderate sea er and even make some little

gains since we rounded Ferhas to be seen to be believed. nando de Noranho. On paper, we should be los-It's impossible to move about ing a bit. Kvaerner has an without clutching on to some-L-shaped keel, which tank thing. The rigs and sails are un-

tests show is more effective upder immense strain, so the wind. L-shaped keels tend to crew must keep an eye out for danger. In conditions like this, be bigger than the Ts. Merit I worry about breaking some-Cup has a very fine T-shaped keel and small rudder (the thing big and vital that will affect our chances of winning. smallest in the fleet), which But there's always someproduces less drag and therefore higher speed downwind. thing to worry about out here. When winds are light and We have to trade that off

shifting. I worry that someone

else is in a better breeze and

I have to say that we might

have left the wrong boat at

home. Most W60s - this boat in

particular - are optimised for

downwind sailing. We're not

slow upwind, but it's certainly

not our best point of sailing. I'm

sure the other boat, which is

wider and more powerful, and

a lot faster upwind and reach-

ing, would have been perform-

ing better in the sea conditions.

that we have been able to

hang on to Innovation Kvaern-

However, we are pleased

getting the jump on us.

against our performance upwind. We're not surprised - just pleased - that we're hanging on upwind. We have good speed downwind, but the best all round

boat will win the race. You can't be bullet fast in some conditions and embarrassingly slow in others and expect to win the Whithread.

Wiff Tric Whithread.

Whitherado Round Trie World Race (first leg, 7,350 miles, Southempton to Cape Town) Latest positions: 1 Innovation (Natemer (Nor) K Frostad 3001 miles to finsh: 2 Mont Cup (Monacoi & Datton + 17 miles, 3 EF Language (Swe) P Cayard + 22, 4 SR. Cut (PB) L Smith + 147; 5 Chesse Racring (US) M Facher + 172; 6 Yoshba (US) C Delson + 357; 7 Americas Challenge (US) R Field + 393; 8 Swedsh Match (Swe) G Krantz + 422; 9 EF Language (Swe) C Gulou + 592; 10 Brunel Sunergy (Neth) H Bouscholp + 612.

### Sea change for funding will help Olympic assault

In what he described as the means tested and based on a nohiggest change ever in the funding of our sport, Rod Carr, racing manager of the Royal Yachting Association, yesterday unveiled a rolling programme of cash support from the national lottery as part of the World Class Performance Plan.

An initial £1.1m will be pumped into the élite squad for both overseas competition and subsistence funding for the competitors in the year to 1 July 1998 with plans already submitted for the following three years. There will also be grants for sports science and medicine.

As sailing will not be included in any inland-based British Academy of Sport, nine existing regional centres will be promoted to sports specific sailing academies, with major funding already announced for Plymouth and Pwilheli.

The funding will be concentrated on Olympic and Youth World Championship classes. The aim, said Carr, will be turn additional funding into medals. For the sailors there will be a mix of direct cash support.

tional basic £16,000 a year, and equipment cost support. The funding of overseas competition will come out of a basic fund of £800,000. While the tax position of the

athletes is not yet clear, they will sign joint contracts with the Royal Yachting Association and the UK Sports Council, with whom the grant has been negotiated. Carr was keen to emphasise that the funding was expandable, and that other athletes who meet the qualification criteria would be added.

The RYA is expected to play its part in promoting the UKSC, but the athletes will not be obliged to be involved in that programme. Some additional programmes which have yet to receive UKSC approval are expected to be submitted again.

"This is a major improvement to the prospects of British yachting in the long term," said Carr, whose fight through bureaucracy has won high praise. "It is particularly important to those aspiring to Athens in 2004."

#### SPORT ON THE INTERNET Pitch in for stats on the bats

As the baseball season reaches its climax and heads toward the World Series, which starts next Saturday, October 18, I thought it would be interesting to see how the Internet covers America's

I know I should like it because of its similarity to cricket and its passion for statistics, but somehow I can't get started. But looking at the annual results, I know cricketers have it easy. A successful baseball team will play more than 170 games in a season lasting seven months from April to October. That even includes playing double-headers, two games on the same

Currently the play-offs, to decide which teams contest the World Series, have just started with the American League play-offs between the Baltimore Orioles and the Cleveland Indians and the National League play-offs between the Atlanta Braves, last season's runners-up, and

the Florida Marlins. The Fastball web site (http://www.fastball.com/) has all the up-to-date news on the play-offs with links to individual pages for the teams. It also includes sections on statistics with archives going back two years, news, gossip, virtual baseball games and fantasy results. There is also an interesting piece on the average salary, which for the past six years has been

over \$1m (£625,000). The Baseball Server (http://www.sportserver.com/ SportServer/baseball/) covers baseball worldwide as well as the expected Major League part. It has a better coverage of the play-offs with action photos plus a page of odds. CBS Sportsline (http:// cbs.sportsline.com/index.ht ml) has as its main feature a play-by play breakdown for each day.

Following the weather connection with last week's piece on the Whitbread, you can also surprisingly link to Hurricane Central (http://www.storm97.com/) with latest news on Pauline, Fabian and El Nino.

Edward Abelson

### **ADDRESSES**

Fastball http://www.fastball.com/ Baseball server http://www.sportserver.com /SportServer/baseball/ **CBS Sportsline** http://cbs.sportsline.com ESPN Sportszone

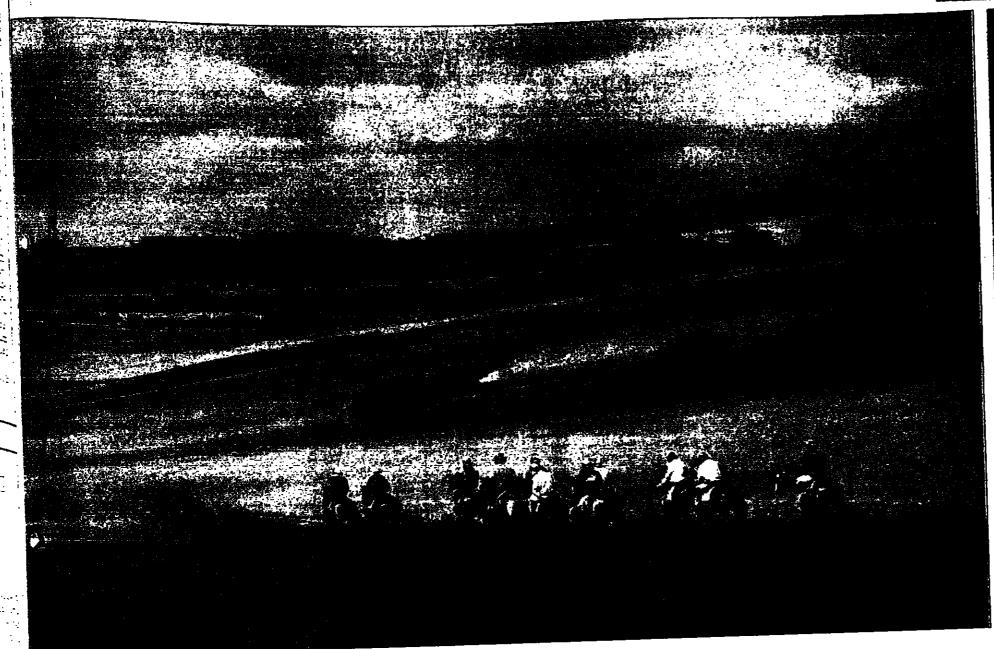
http://espr.sportszone.com/ Official Baseball site http://www.majorleague basebail.com/

**USA Today** http://www.usatoday.c The Sporting News http://www.sporting news.com/basehall

Hurricane Central

Stuart Alexander

مكذا من ألاصل





Above: Frankie Dettori dismounts in trademark fashion from Starborough after winning the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot

Left: A string of horses trained by Barry Hills enjoy the

# Hallam's sporting vision wins double IOC accolade



tingham 'A' (nearside) beat Neptune in the final of the Thames Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta

The Independent's Robert Hallam has continued the paper's tradition of prize-winning sports photograpaper's tradition of prezewining spots photography by winning two awards in the ninth International Olympic Committee Best of Sport Photographic contest. Hallam, 36, a previous winner of the British Sports Photographer of the Year competition, was awarded the Silver Lens for second place in the colour category for his photograph of Frankie Dettori dismounting at Royal Ascot (top right). The eight photographs on this page make up his colour portfolio, for which he was highly commended.

There were entries from 26 countries for the com-

petition, which was not limited to Olympic sports in order to encourage exposure of "less covered sports". To qualify, the photographs had to be taken between 1 September 1996 and 10 August 1997.

en between 1 September 1996 and 10 August 1997.
Hallam, the only British award winner, won the prize
for the best black and white portfolio in 1995.
The winners of the main categories this year were:
Colour photograph: Shimoda Yuichi (Nikkan Sports
News); colour portfolio: Tim Clayton (Sydney Morning Herald): black and white photograph: Trent Parke ing Herald); black and white photograph: Trent Parke (The Australian); black and white portfolio: Trent



Awaiting the start of the Open Water Swimming Championship at Rudyard Lake in Staffordshire



le's David Rees holds off the challenge of Richmond's Jim ion to score a try in their rugby union Pilkington Cup tie



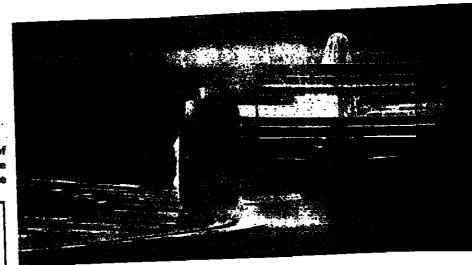
Coome Hill, one of the favourites for the 1997 Cheltenham Gold Cup, works out on the beach at Bude in Cornwall, near the yard of his trainer, Walter Dennis



A wicket falls in Surrey's County Championship match against Yorkshire at The Oval in June

> A blown engine ends the challenge of Ferrari's Michael Schumacher in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone

To order a print of one of these photographs telephone 0171 293 2534 (subject to availability)



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REDHEAD ROMANCE
Sim, lift, suburn-heard termale termale. REDMEAD ROMANCE
Sim, in, subum-haired female,
45, interested in the aris, the
atracknemarbalist, started rock
climbing. Can anyone heip?
Seeking affectionate, outgoing,
adventurous male, for infendship and romance. 22/2755
SEEKING
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Affectionate, tail, pon-British

Affectionate, tall, non-British, divorced, beautiful, fit ledy, enjoying own successful busis and lovely cosy home, is still Searching for your male, 42-48, over 61", it, attractive, strong and sensitive. 272718

ARTISTIC IN
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

outhful, attractive, loving, pro-essional musician, mid-40s, th literary, theatrical, alternawith iterary, theatrical, alternative leanings and much more, seeks similar, sitm, sensitive 
male, for whatever the future 
may hold. #2746 
SUBBLY IN BRISTOL 
Dark-skunned female, GSOH, 
eryoys travelling, sport, theatre, 
country pubs, seeks gentleman, 45-45, for friendship and 
maybe romance. #2708

man, 49-65, for mendsnip and maybe romands. 292708

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WARMTH IN WINTER
Cuddly, (that means plump)
ternale, mid-50s, adores family,
tood, wine, laughter and lowing,
pooks, theatre, intelligent con-

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ec, not average, solvent mase, up to 50, available for marriage. Kent area, call again, disaster with previous messages. THE WORLD IS OUR TOY

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FIRST CALLER
Futny, sometimes outrangus.

interesting, attractive woman, wonders if there is a men with guts, the and imagination, who would like to meet. No under 50s, smokers or bores need apply. 12:2568 RED-HEADED NURSE RED-HEADED NURSE
Slim, attractive, divorced,
autourn-haired nurse, mid-40s,
seeks attractive, N/S man, simfar age, with warmth, wit, perception, for whatever unfolds,
NW Kent/South London area.

NW Kert/South London area.
72565
CUDDLY FEMALE
Caring, cuddly, petite female.
40s, Into everything, seeks educated mate, with GSOH, for caring friendship. Anywhere.
72526
BURBLY REDHEAD

No drumks need apply!!

172520

PROFESSIONAL
POSSIBILITIES?
Prolessional female graduate.
31, works in medical professiona, seeks professional male, doctor/langer/similar, 40-50, must love log fins, animals and good food. 172537

BLONDE BOMBSHELL
Attractive, embelic, professional, brown-eyed temale, 32, 5107, seeks extravagant male, to explore life in London. 172543

510", seeks extravagant male, to explore life in London.
22:543
OO YOU THE
HAVE THE NERVE?
Tal, attractive, NW England lemale, 32, seeks sane cross between Hannbal Hayes and Harry Hill, forever! 27:25:10
CAMBRIDGESHIFE
DEPHHAN REDHEAD

Atractive, red-headed lemale, thirty-something, juggling careers and kids, seeks similar male, for red wine and conversation. 17:2525

MAVERICK FEMALE...
...wants independent male, to share the big adventure with: 1 am 39, tail, dark, shim, with cool extentor and warm intentor. We can lalk about music, an 8 walk for miles. London. 17:2506

SEEKING
SOUTH EAST MALE

SEEKING
SOUTH EAST MALE
Tall, fun-toving, silm temale, 41,
5'11", enjoys golf, outdoor pursuits, seeks similar male, for imenship/romance 272530
ADVENTUSOUS

Integrity, 47-60, for romance and company. 17:2533

LIVELY ENERGETIC 54

Warm, source lemele, 52.

blonde/blue, enjoys country pubs, occasional drink, read-

grows, occasional drink, reading, music and most things, seeks tall, muscular male, for life nds hip/relationship.

Cumbria area. 1272504 INDEPENDENT LADY

Intelligent, active, caring, lun. enjoys good food wine, music, walking, countryside, seeks quick-witted male companion, GSOH, 55-65. West London

area, can travel. 772516

Female, 49, GSOH, young out-look, own business, likes adventurous travel, loves tock muste and Mozart, Buddhism, cars, cinema, theatre, walking, countryside, swimming, seeks successful, whole male, mid-

YES
Swedish, outgoing, confident,
happy, blonde temale, 29,
engys life, video filming, art,
drinks, fun, seeks similar male,
but more! London area,
\$2376
SLEPLESS IN BEDFORD?
Attractive, lively, projessional JAZZ UP YOUR LIFE JAZZ UP YOUR LIFE
Petite, attractive, warm, loving
and sincere, lively lady, into
country walks, sking, wine,
dine and dance, loves music
and [Mng, seeks like-minded
man of similar age, 45-55,
Surrey besed 17:2562
LOVE IS OUR CLASSROOM
Hanny, attractive, slim,

BRIGHTON LADY

most things in Me. seeks honest, intelligent, N/S male, 35-50, for finenciship/relationship

LANCASHIRE LASS
Young-at-heart, widowed lady, outgoing personality, 55, 57\*, blonde/title, likes gardening, pats, travel, walking, holidays, dining out, seeks laflish male, similar age/intensits, for friend-ship/retailouship. 12/2536

EXEYER LADY
Romantic, penuine, trustwor-

40. 222370
2 BECOME 1
Interesting, kind-hearte 2 BICCOME 1
Interesting, kind-hearted, loving female, seeks romantic, Christian mate, 204, to share the and loy. Loves musiciants/ poetry and takes the road less travelled. \$7299
Partity, independent, intelligent,

spiritual, Manchester female, 25, large build, seeks Mr Flight, for retationship 132335 LOVELY LADY Lovely, easygoing lentale, 25, GSOH, seeks adventurous, kind-spirted male, for compan-ionship, friendship, maybe 12:2336 Into antiques & Music...

FUN-LOVING FUTURE?

FUN-LOVING FUTURE: Youthus, sim, attractive, po-tessional lemale, late 40s, seeks optimistic, intelligent male, for good conversation, laugitier, travel and hopefully long-term relationship Atto-Caribbean background wel-come. Herts area. 272528 Sim. presentable, lively, bright, South Wales female, seeks fit male, 47-52, with wisdom and integrity, for an intriguing life of romance and merriment.

**BRIGHTON BLOKE** 

stylish woman, long dark/pale

stylish woman, long centipate green, art graduate, enjoys socialising, travel, dencing, conversation, dining out, seeks similar, confident, inentity man,

IDEAS ABOVE MY STATION?

Fair, fit, calm, happy, optimistic temals, 50s, saeks solvent good-natured, intelligent male

pursuits. Title and lortune no

delrimeni. Sheffield area.

UNBREAK MY HEART

Intelligent, well-travelled. East

Indian female, 6', Trindad ori-gin, great cook, seeks kind.

carring, considerate, white male, 45-60, for friendship, maybe more. \$22322

STYLISH & FUN

Attractive, stylish, brunette temale, 43, N/S, no hes. VGSOH, seeks altractive, pro-tessional male, 35-49, no hes,

PRESENTABLE

Warm-hearled, petite, divorced mum, seeks educated gentle-

romance. Humour more Impor-

tant than looks. London area. \$22304

49, seeks intelligent, attractive

sim, successful male, 55lsh, who is adventurous, romantic

and most importantly sincere. North London area. \$2298

A WOMAN FOR KEEPS

Attractive, feminine, slim,

ndian ledy, Kuala Lumpur on-

glins, divorced with 2 children, varied interests, wicked SOH, seeks Australians or continen-

partner for life.

SEEKING MY SPECIAL MAN

Aberdeen area. 222321

more, 222313

n-to-earth, profes

LOVE AND LAUGHTER Stim, attractive, intelligent. Canterbury widow, 51, seeks one special man, to be at least, a very dear Intend. \$2557

Any Queries?

If you should have any questions about any aspects of our Vaice Personals service; please as FREE on 0800 216 318. BRIGHT YOUNG THING Attractive, slim, intelligent, independent temale, 25, seeks tall, charming, successful metals and the seeks tall. tali, charming, successful male, 30-40, for all things gorgeous.

JO-40, for an imming gengelus.
London/Essex. TP2354

IGND GENUTINE MALE?

Tall, slender, friendly, prolessional Jemaie. Seeks lall, humorous. settled male. 27-34, for a loving relationship.
London area. TP2301

Separate VES

Attractive, lively, professional ternale, seeks tall, attractive, like-minded male soul mate, 25-35, to share fun times, dnnk tequila, collect sea shells. Would't hat be great? London and Home Counties. 25:2311

BLONDE BOMBSHELL

Attractive athletic professional

male, 5'10", to explore life

Easygoing, caring, active, intel-ligent, attractive, slim, dark-haired female, late 30s, ergoys

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**WARM & AFFECTIONATE** Artractive female, 30s, seeks sim male, 36-45, with GSOH. to share walks, chema, frend-ship and fun. London area. 32141 ATTRACTIVE SPARKLER

Outgoing, professional female, 5'9", enjoys keeping fit, dining out, theatre, music and socialising, seeks successful, attrac-tive male, late 40s-50, N/S, with Edinburgh aree.

Curvy but stender, enthu accomplished, styfish, opinion-ated, London, Jewish woman, 60, for long-term committed relationship. \$22319 LADY IN RED

EADY IN RED
Fermune, leisty & tarrey free, unconventional female accountant, longing to love, sugh, play and share agein, with rail, pro-tessional/graduate, 50-80, with a trinkle in his eye. Heris/ Bods/Cambs. 12(23)7
CARDIFF LADY
Cartiff all sten penuina lady. CARDIFF LADY
Cardiff, tall, sim, genume lady,
GSOH, seeks intelligent, caring
male, 55+, 5\*10\*+, for companionship/travel. 3\*2356
HELLO!



LET'S START AS FRIENDS
Retired, N/S, muslim, British/
Pakistani male, 62, seeks kind
temale, fair and sim, any refgion/nationality. Essex area.
722745

# Sim, it male vegetarian, 48, loves tive music, denorng, yoga, dnummung, festivals, nature, getting around, personal growth, open to suggastions, seeks wide awake female per-SOIL 172757 CUMBRIAN MALE Romantic, divorced, very fit male, GSOH, trying to reach

the surface again, seeks cul-tured, active, music-toving female. 35-50. NS, for romance and adventure. 12750 LOVE, FUN AND AVAILABLE Professional tall elem fit male Professional, tall, sitm, fit male, sensitive and a hopeless romantic, young-tooking 49. GSOH, loves eating, drinking, most other things, seeks happy, attractive termels, late 30s-early 40s, Henrs/London/SE area. LIBRA LADY

HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE? Tali, kind, ambitious male, 24, seeks attractive temale, 18-30, for fun and friendship. 13:2725 ALTERNATIVE L'AMOUR? ALLERMINE L. AMOUNT.
Kind, essygoing, altractive, professional, it, Indian male, 38. 6', enjoys taughing, yoga, alternative therapy, theatre, travel, seeks simmedium-built, authorities.

warm female, any nationality, for romance. London/SE area. 122719 CUDDLY NURSE

CUDDLY NURSE
Easygoing male, 27, 5'11",
dark/dark, medium build,
enjoys good food, socialising,
clubs, hand gliding, lots more,
seeks aflectionate female, 2535, for frendship, possibly
more, London area, 152759
STEADY SEEKER Sincere, loyal, romantic, intelli-gent, good-looking, withy male. 28, 6°, enjoys theatre, draing out, walking, dinema, conversa-tion, seeks shrillar lemale, 25-50, no bes, NS; tor fun, friend-ship/relationship. Middlands area, will travel. 28'27'22 LET'S STARTT AS FRIENDS Well-educated NIS, good-look-ing, very fit, professional male, 30, current interests include sport, chema, clubbing, eating out, seeks intelligent, attractive female, 20-30, for triendship, maybe more, London area, 25'27'11

Chat Lines

MR LOVERMAN
Caring, easygoing male, 30s,
enjoys most trings in tite, seeks
mature temale, for love and
companionship. £72739
OUTDOOR INTERESTS
Stim. professional male, 33,
enjoys rock climbing, half waking, seeks temale, similar Interests. Manchester or NW area.
972778.

ORIENTAL FEMALE

ORIENTAL FEMALE
Fit, caring, romantic male, 34,
510°, seeks Oriental/Astan. fit,
slim and prety female, lor
triendship and romance.
322744
LIFE in THE BUS LAME
West Yorkshire male, 34, likes
theatre, cnema, walking, gigs,
seeks fellow lemale passenger,
tor fun times. 322741
NDEPENDENT READER
Non-grumpy male, 34, 6. RECYCLED & REBORN
Recycled teernager, 49, seeks
female, 35+, for friendship,
maybe more. 22705
AROMATIC L'AMMOUR
Quiet male, 50, 5'3', enjoys chrema, sport, cumes, seeks outgoing female, with talkative personality, for intendship/relationship. Central London. 22751
MODEL RELATIONSHIP
Handsure, shileh: intellectual muer-crouen i READEM Non-grumpy male, 34, 6', enjoys walking, countryside, conservation, swimming, read-ing, seeks talkish, attractive female graduale, 23-30, for frendshig/relationship. East Michanic, 372726 Handsome, athleto, intellectual male artist, 51, NW UK, seeks model relationship, with creative, enutite, younger woman,

Me too! I'm a deat, N/S, affectionate, caring, honest, stractive, black tella, 35 but looks 25, from Notlingtern, GSOH. seeks white/Asian/italian 490y, 25-46, must be full of romance.

FEMININE SIDE
Tall, attractive, gentle-netured, sensitive, affectionate, professoral male, 50, GSOH, with outlook, personality and impecable taste, enjoys opera, dneme, many sports, seeks affectionate lady, who vatues caring, sharing, laughter and love. LOOKING FOR LOVE
Carng male, 35, 6', likes cinema, correctes, sport, concerts, seeks ternale, 20-45, for good times together. \$2731
CROSS COUNTRY CHARMS tionate lady, who values caring, sharing, laughter and love. 17:2732

OUIETLY ASSENTIVE Finendly, honest, warm, caring, intelligent male, 30s, 6', GSOH, occasional smoker, enjoys travelling, chiema, music, cross country driving, seeks kind-bastes. TIME FOR A CHANGE
Easygoing male, 37, enjoys
conversation, eating, drinking,
hill walking, reading, seeks
female, to share above things,
have lun. 12:2748
RELATIONSHIP AHOY?
Male, late 30s. GSOH, seeks
long-term, towing Inendship/
relationship, with gentles, caring
female, who is willing to share
good times and tile. 12:2706

QUIETLY ASSEMINE
Male, seeks professional, inde-pendent female, 45-56ish, for friendship/relationship.
Wolverhampton area. 27:2728
LOOK NO FURTHER Easygoing, attractive, profes-sional male, 40. 6°, silm build, enjoys cycling, photography, leaping fit, music, seeks attrac-tive, slim temale, for new expe-feroes and sharing. 13:2548 MSCHIEVOUS DEVIL

182752 FEMININE SIDE

MALE NURSE

Unbelievably eligible, dark, cute, slightly funky male, 26, seeks intelligent, attractive female, 23-30, for romance. ternale, 23-30, for romance.
London area. 1272544
YOUNG ARAB MALE
Trainee pilot, 25, 5\*11", seeks
N/S, fun-loving female, for
frendship/relationship. London

TALL AND SLIM Chamingly ironic, pretsnitous, postgraduate male, 25, seeks temale soul mate, for hot nights out, warm rights in. Sheffield Professional, educated, Christian male, 40, part-time ded, sim, youthful, energetic, passionats, enjoys music, walking, cycling, swimming, seeks female companion, to share life and interests. \$72724 area 172569 YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS OPERA LOVER
Meie, 40, seeks bady companion. Lincs area or London.

UPTOWN MAN

Any Queries?

And of the day of t

ful, professional fizze, 20, 100 scruptes at all, with wicked SOH, seaks equally wicked temala, 24-32, N/S, for fun and franciship. London area. series items alline student male, 20e, silm build, 55°, blond/blue, health tenedic, enjoys company with the right kind of people, seeks temate, 18-28, for fun, fendship and relationship. Leicester area.

SCEPPLESS

N HARTFORD SHIRE
Cancer male, 41, N/S, seeks spisoan/scorp to female, 35-45, in need of TLC, let's share life together. #E2710

SCINTILLATING
Warm, witty, articulare, Christian businessman, 43, seeks Miss Personality, for life and beyond, Middlands grea. #E2722

EXPERIENCED PARTNER Handsome, professional, single lunk, 40ish, enjoys bravel, finess and the arts, seeks dark, young lemale, 18-25, for exclusing lasting relationship, Black's Asian worman welcome. London/Southern England area. #E2712 STEADY SEEKER
Sincere, loyal, romantic, intelligent, good-looking, withy male,
28, 6°, enjoys theatre, dining
out walking, chema, conversation, seeks similar female, 2550, no ties, N/S, for fun, friendship/relationship. Midlands

50, no test, Nrs, for run, meno-ship/relationship. Midilands area. Will travel. 272555

SOUL MATE
Professional, Asian male, 28, seeks fun-loving, mature, romantic female, single mum welcome, for triendship/rela-terable. welcome, for friendsmipresa-tonship. London sera. 372512 UNIVERSAL EXPLOSION? SE based graduate, 30, seeks intelligent, attractive, sensitive ternale, to hold my hand while i

London/Southern England
area. #2712
ARE YOU LONESOME?
Bubbly, outgoing male, 46, 63°,
brown halveyes, smoker, fixes
travelling, cooking, sookalising,
80e/70s music, seeks similar
temale, 30-50, for friendship,
possible retarionship, Basingstoke area. #22716
BACK TO BASICS
Attractive male, ocuro 46, 5°8°. wait for the big bang. \$72583 NORTH EAST SONGWRITER Creative graduate, 30. Into scripwriting, music, gigs, jazz, clubs, poetry, current atlans, intelligent conversation, chilling, out, seeks female kindred spir-ter francishio, fun and most-BACK TO BASICS
Attractive male, young 46, 5'8",
skim build, enjoys alternative
therapies, spiritual kie, cycling,
countryside, seeks silm female
soul male, 33-44, N/S, for lastration. Cleveland/NE area. 222540 EASYGOING HIGH FLYER Professional male, 29, 6'1". POU'RE THE ONE I WANT

EASYGOING HIGH FLYER Professional male, 29, 611, long black/brown, medium build, enjoys current affairs, history, travel, nights out/in, socialising, seeks caring, chatty, professional, Intelligent female, 25-35, similar interests, GSOH, for friendship, professional affairs, in the control of the control YOU'NE THE ONE! WAN! Kind, considerate make, looking for that special lady, to enjoy good times again, likes sports, cinema, eating out, various types of music especially rock, for fun times. London area. possible relationship. 1372509
TALL, DARK & HANDSOME

MALE NURSE
Săm, fit, caring graduale, young
47, 6°, seeks happy, warm
temale, 28-48, for triendship/ relationship. West Suffolk/ Cambs area. 12\*2714
RECYCLED & REBORN
Recycled Legrange 49, saeks Professional, Asian male. 29, enjoys cinema, reading, current affairs, travel, music, cooking.

ADVENTUROUS MERIMAID
ADVENTUROUS MERIMAID
Professional male, 30, GSOH,
enjoya good food, raal ale,
seeks lady, 22-35, climber,
fiver travelling paymer, for diver, travelling partner, for triendship. \$2518 Sporty, highly-educated, N/S male, 31, 6'3', enjoys keeping fit, socialising, good food, seeks affectionate companion,

seeks affectionale companion, tor inendship, maybe more. London. 272511

FREE SPIRITED
Tall, silm, protessonal, sporty male, 31, 611, athletic build, likes sport, clubs, pubs, music, films, reading, seeks like-minder female, 25-33, for intendship/relationship, South Coast based 172554

Shri male, 30, enjoys cinema ty, reading, seeking temple sny, short, dark helr, for longterm relationship. 272553

seeks easygoing, intelligent temale, 25-35, for companion-Stim, creative, thoughtful male

Amie, seeks muscular female body-builder, with warm, witty

spiritual development, seeks spirited, independent female, any age, for friendship/relationship. 22:2542

# SEEKING

LOVELY LAD Straight-acting: gay guy, 18, 5'8", GSOH, likes chema ship. 22713

1 FEEL 4 U Male student nurse, 22, likes reading chama, seeks intelliarea. 272743 SEARCHING

build, seeks male, up to 40, for one-to-one relationship, Cambndgeshire area. 172738 TIME SPENT WITH YOU

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YETU ...

(Mari

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۹. Jr. ucosc st

enjoys watching Fraiser and This Life, seeks similar male, 25-45, for a possible friendship. relationship. South Wates area nearly 6', blue/light brown, seeks straight-acting, mascu-

line, young Prince Charming, to take me away, preferably dark-haired, for friendship, hopefully more. Arry area. 272709

toric houses, books, history & for triendship, possible 1-2-1.

### JUST FRIENDS

encompassing India, SE Asia, Australia & USA, also trekking In Negal/Tibel. 272715
TRAVEL COMPANION...
.. straight male/female, was

irlendship, by single male. 20s. 224305 NEW IN LONDON

Independent, fun, easygoing, open-minded. Belgium female. 34, loves bravel, discovery, film, music, good food & wine, publing & diubbing, seeks similar male/female. for Intendship.

Morocco or Gos this wi 12754 NEW FRIENDS WANTED

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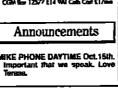
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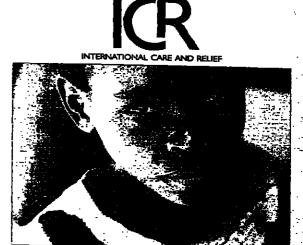


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Chat Lines







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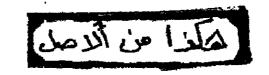
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NEW FRIENDS week. 30s. Outgoing, triendly male. 30s. Interested in travel, enjoys socialising, consumate male. Stylish, professionel woman, 40s, seeks male travel com-panion, likes Ancient Greece, for travel, mendship, \$2330

(Minner: **መ**ለ ቤት Mocment. JUST CURIOUS: Villi<sub>JUI</sub> Exploss Your McLaren -Intelligete gći szbis. LIVE CHAT 00592-568 588 ond some. ELL'S. LISTE

i when the range a Morath, 31 perc dill udalicu. e and to div things there Eccleric. WEEKI

TODAY

1 13 45, 2 1 - 24, 3 1 - 34, 4 1 - 34, 5 1 - 34, 1 1 - 34, 1 1 - 34,

It's hard to imagine A Quesdown as flung in its face with player, Anna Kournikova, was Cooke's Letter from America. Maybe I should start reading apart from Abyssinia). There dous enthusiasm." As a policetion of Space (DDC) - its annual content archive man fans a spectator, he says. tion of Sport (BBC1) without a cry of "You're shit-aaah") by David Coleman. But consider this: at one time it was probably hard to imagine it without Cliff Morgan. Memories like that, happily, are the kind the subconscious tends to do an excellent job of sup-

was all over, and so it was, for paint. him at least, and an erstwhile Stockport County footballer French Open tennis champion - plus ca change and all that. Woolly jumpers are out; hooded tops are in, as sported in the first of the new series by the new MC, Sue Barker.

In its last couple of series, the programme had already responded to the challenge of

upping its IQ (Innuendo Quotient, that is), and that trend continued on Tuesday with plenty of limp-joked ribaldry over the recent magazine photo-spread featuring one of the guests, the heptathlete Denise Lewis, wearing noth-At 71, Coleman thought it ing but a few licks of body

"It's very nice to see you with your clothes on," said has been replaced by a former captain John Parrott, while his oppo, Ally McCoist, said of the snaps: "They're certainly on my wall." You couldn't imagine Nick Hancock or Rory McGrath being quite

The producers seem to have told them to play it a bit more laddish, though. In the picture They Think It's All Over (a round, Parrott's reaction to a gauntlet not so much thrown picture of the young tennis

"Unfortunately, the answer 'fit bird' wouldn't go down too well." Frankie Deltori's response, meanwhile, was a low groan of "Oh yeah." But apart from Barker's

arrival and an injection of minute quantities of testosterone, nothing has changed. The format may have been different some time in prehistory, too far back for me to remember: questions on the contestants' own sports, with the accompanying cosy, slightly teasing fireside chats, then the picture round, home and away, mystery guest, what happened next, one-minute round and the rest of the pictures a format as familiar and soothing as a really soft and wootly Coleman jumper. It's like

Desert Island Discs or Alistair

the defiantly unreconstructed: As some historian or other re- Loaded. marked after the poll tax protests, only the British riot to keep things the same, and you sense that the massed ranks of Middle England -8,000,000 of them according to the viewing figures - would be outside Television Centre breaking up paving stones if the Birt brigade tinkered

unduly with QoS. Sad to report, then, and call me churlish, but I have to say I was a bit bored. Maybe my palate has been coarsened by Hancock's half-hour of pub-crawl vulgarity, all the talk of shags and slappers and twats and gits, but Barker and Co did little to lift OoS out of its stultifying routine.

When does a groove become a rut? That word cosy kept coming back to mind.

That particular organ should have been around in 1934, when Italy came over for the Battle of Highbury and there was more testosterone on the pitch than in the veins of a battalion of cheating athletes. The excellent series Leviathan (BBC2), which takes historical perspectives on current stories in the news, took the opportunity, in the light of this evening's Rumble in Rome. of looking back to another confrontation between England and the Azzurri.

There was some nice scene-setting, explaining how English expats were responsible for spreading the gospel 100 years ago, starting out with cricket clubs, and how later football became fascism's favourite battleground (well,

footage, with lots of marching blackshirts (unless it was Manchester United parading their latest away strip), and a commentator who made Harry Enfield's Cholmondely-Warner sound like Fat Fred from Coronation Street: "Before the game commences," he says over film of an earlier match, "the great Italian crowd roars a welcome to Signor Mussolini." Il Duce is sitting there (in a trilby for some reason) looking immensely pleased with himself, like a Capo Di Tutti Capi who's just arranged

for a horse's head to be de-

livered to some unfortunate

recalcitrant. Cholmondely-Warner was in action again at Highbury: "The stends are pecked with some 60,000 spectators and tremen-

was some great archive man fans a spectator, he says: "Fainting already? It can't be the heat, so it must be excitement - or speghetti." The match, a 3-2 victory to England, was a bloodbath (though the programme had too little of the maybem there goes my coarse palate again), and we were shown a headline which in its genteel way was in a direct line to today's tabloid nonsense: "This Italian Football: Not Soccer As We Know It". C-W, though, had kind words for the vanquished: "Well tried, Ettely."

Cut to the present day, and presenter Mark Urban reminded us that "Italy have won seven of the last 11 encounters. Perhaps it's just as well they never took up cricket too." Another 3-2 win for England tonight would be worth a few more bloody noses.

MOTOR RACING: JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

# Paddock war threat clouds title climax

The right result at the lapanese Grand Prix tomorrow would see **Jacques Villeneuve win** the Formula One drivers'

However, as David *Iremayne* discovered, a dispute between the top teams and the sport's management is proving more than just a distraction at Suzuka.

As Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher warmed up for the fight for the world championship, storm clouds gathered behind the scenes in the Formula One paddock here, promising a winter of discontent the like of which has not seen ace the war between the teams

hd the governing body in 1981. Back then, Bernie Ecclestone, the president of the teams' association, Foca, and his lawyer, Max Mosley, battled against the sport's then governing body. Fisa, and its autocratic president, Jean-Marie Balestre. Out of the animosity came the celebrated Concorde agreement, the mandate by which F1 would be run

for the next 16 years. Today Mosley is the president of the FIA, Fisa's successor, and Ecclestone is its vice-president of marketing. and now it is them against the ams. When a new Concorde agreement was drawn up last year, Frank Williams of Williams, Ron Dennis of McLaren and Ken Tyrrell of Tyrrell refused to sign it. When they expressed dissatisfaction with some of its terms most observers expected their objections to be overcome by the time the season started. But eight months later the differences have still to be resolved, and an impatient Mosley has threatened to dissolve the agreement altogether. Talk of legal action by the teams is escalating. Ecclestone's as yet unsuccessful plans to float F1 have tended to cloud the issue, according to one team owner who wished to remain anonymous. Part of the argument concerns the money the teams expect to receive from any flotation, but he said: "It is also about our intellectual rights. Our right to capitalise on our own trademarks and logos, and to expect and receive remuneration from any rights involving them that the FIA sells, such as in the form of electronic game rights. Why should they sell our trademarks if we don't receive income from that sale?"

The FIA wants the teams to sign a new agreement and CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

1 J Villenguve (Can) 77pts 2 M Shumacher (Gert 68

3 H-H Frentzen (Ger) 35 4 D Coulthard (GB) 30 5 J Alesi (Fr) 28 6 G Berger (Aut) 24

7 G Fisichella (It) 20 8 E irvine (GB) 18 9 O Panis (Fr) 16 10≈ M Hakkinen (Fin) 14

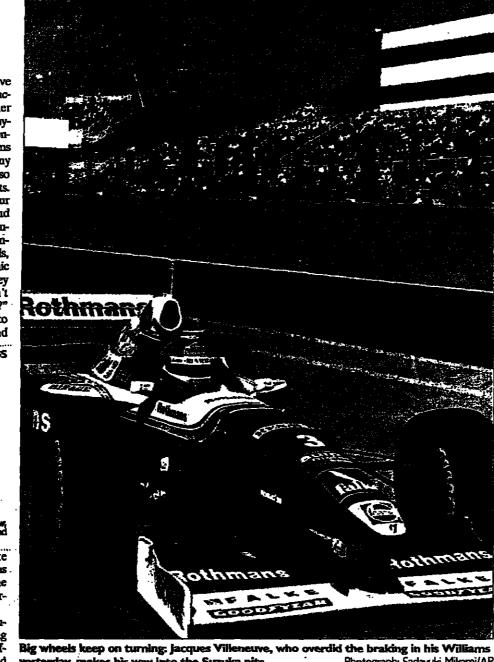
J Herbert (GB) 14. Remaining grands pric Tomorrow, Japanese GP, Suzuka; 26 Oct, Grand

promises to incorporate changes proposed by the teams once this has been done. The teams want the changes incorporated beforehand.

"In the real world," the owner said, "it is the sort of thing that would be settled in an afternoon. But reason, logic and responsibility are not things you expect to find in F1."

Another owner, who also wished to remain unidentified, said: "The situation is building up for an all-out conflict. This has all the makings of a very difficult winter for F1."

Against this unsettling backdrop, the championship contenders were upstaged by Eddie Irvine, Ralf Schumacher and Olivier Panis, who exploited fresh tyres to set the fastest times in yesterday's training session. Michael Schumacher ended the day only 10th fastest,



yesterday, makes his way into the Suzuka pits Photograph: Sadayuki Mikami/AP

sic set-up today. I stopped early this afternoon, because I had finished today's planned programme and I did not want to use another set of tyres:"

Nevertheless, the Ferrari's performance has bolstered the German's hopes. Though Ferrari

but said: "We worked on the ba- hance performance. Ferrari only recently complained about a similar system used by McLaren. Tyres proved a problem for Villeneuve, who was 11th fastest, after he damaged one of his seven allotted sets by flat-spotting a tyre under heavy braking.

As a result, the Canadian will technicians have been tight- have to compromise on his lipped on the subject, Schu- track time in today's official macher is believed to have qualifying session. "We imbenefited from a new system proved the car a lot already which electronically modulates there is still a lot to come out the engine's torque curve to en- of it so I am very confident."

JAPANESE GRAND PRX (Stznich): Leading times after free practice: 1 E hytre (GE) Festari firth 38.903sac (av speed 182.682 raph/219445 lphi; 2 R Schumacher (Ger) Jondan-Peugeot 138.991; 3 O Panis (Fr) Prost-Mugeot-Honda 138.991; 4 H-H Frenzen (Ger) Williams-Pennadi 138.993; 8 J Aleal (Fr) Benetton-Renaut 138.945; 6 J Herbert (GE) Sauber-Petrones 139.945; 9 G Berger (Auf) Benetton-Renaut 139.945; 9 G Berger (Auf) Benetton-Renaut 140.480; 11 J Williamston (Ger) McLaren-Marcedes 139.945; 9 G Berger (Auf) Benetton-Renaut 140.480; 11 J Williamston (Ger) McLaren-Marcedes 139.945; 9 G Berger (Auf) Benetton-Renaut 140.480; 11 J Williamston (Ham) Hamiston (Ham) Hamist

# Villeneuve's title, Williams' glory

If Jacques Villeneuve becomes Formula One world drivers' champion in Suzuka, Japan, tomorrow his team, Williams-Renault, will applaud him. Deep down, however, says Derick Allsop, they will feel that the real

No one within motor racing can genuinely believe that Jacques Villeneuve is the best driver in the world, just as few would seriously claim Damon Hill was last year. Michael Schumacher remains a class apart: and that

success is theirs.

suits Williams-Renault fine. Williams are on the verre of hiring and firing of drivers. It is generally accepted that had Schumacher been in a Williams instead of a Ferrari this season he would have secured the cham-

pionship long ago. The Oxfordshire-based team have taken much criticism for "losing" world champions. Nelson Piquet, Nigel Mansell, Alain Prost and Hill all left them after winning the title. There has been speculation this year that Villeneuve might join the tri-

umphal exodus. But then Williams view racing as a team game and the driver as another member of that team. Rather than blow the budget on retainers they prefer to invest in the next car. They pulled out of the bidding for Schumacher two years ago because they felt \$20m (£12.5m) a season was too high a price to pay. Their track record indicates

their business sense is not awry. Motor racing's critics say it cannot be a true sport because the car and not the driver is seen as the important factor. But Patrick Head, Williams' technical director, argues a success for anyone other than Schumacher would not devalue the championship. Head said: There has seldom been a

champion who has not had the on does not prove you are the ning is a team effort and the driver is part of the equation.

"Jacques is not as adaptable and good in all conditions as Schumacher is. Schumacher is a more complete driver. But . Jacques is still in his second season of Formula One."

Villeneuve with Heinz-Harald Frentzen rather than Hill this sea- time and doing some posing. He son and although the German i may pose, but I will be pressing has had a generally uncomfortable ride Head contends there is round. When I catch him propno evidence the Englishman is any better than the Canadian.

up Damon in terms of performance in the second half of last the defence against Jose Badila record ninth constructors' title, season, but then when you are lo, dropped his guard to pay the as well as the individual prize, and ahead you have to put a bit greatest compliment he has afthey will consider Villeneuve's more conservatism in your dri- forded an opponent. Hamed coronation as both confirmation ving, whereas the man chasing said the Puerto Rican No 1 of their continued specificative and vou has less to lose. So I mandatory challenge

> Jacques is that he is a very individual character, a very fine and derided anyone sitting driver, and quite a lot of teams : alongside him at news conferwould like to have him."

> may not have seen the best of , one defeat in 21 contests. Villeneuve or Williams this season because of the driver's "individual" preference on set-up. erweight champion, Tom

> opinion on settings, although we : times during a 1995 challenge haven't had the stand-up rows for the American's title, but the that have been reported," Head judges went for Johnson. said. "Jacques likes stiffer settings, whereas we believe softer . Johnson, a champion who I settings would be more appro- have also boxed, demands repriate and productive. This is spect," Hamed said. "He probsomething we are going to have ably caught Johnson in a better

to work on over the winter." leneuve's way after Schumach- definitely put him at the top." er was shunted out of the Luxembourg Grand Prix a fortnight ago, by his youngster brother. Ralf. The Suzuka circuit should suit Villeneuve and his car, and Head is anxious to avoid a last-race decider, at

Jerez, Spain, in a fortnight. Head said: "The same thing that happened to Michael at the Reading Nürburgring could happen to Jacques and I wouldn't feel deswith say, a three-point lead. stages back-to-back fixtures to We'd like to finish it at this race."

Hockey
MATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Bertord Tigers
V Beeston (Alumwell Community Centre 20);
Centrack v Concester (230); Cententury v Guidford (III); Hourstow East Ginstead (20); Reading v Ord Loughtonians (20); Southstee v
Teddington (20); First Division Blueheirs v Ison
(20); Bournelle v Lewis (230); Bordheirs v Hengstead & Vestminster (III); Blooklands v Sheffeld
(20); Cheinstod v Indian Gyrinthena (IV); Febbrends v Haweit (III); Glouzaster (IV) v Werrington (130); Herleston Bluggies v Hui
(20); Chord Hawles v Stourport (20); Curlad Univ
v Loughborough Students (20); Surbiton v 9;
Alberts (230).

Speedway CRAYEN SHIED First round, first leg: Country v Bradlard (ED).

SCOTTISH CUP: Glasgow v Edinburgh (630).

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle Eagles v Thames Velley Tigers (\$30); addas Gregor Lon-don Leopards v ITT L&E Worthing Bears (\$0); Exide London Towars v Converse Crystal

Hockey

Basketball

### BOXING

### Eubank's build-up grounded

Whether or not it was a blast of hot air was unclear, but Chris Eubank's hired helicopter was best car. Being world champi- caught in a crosswind yesterday, meaning that he was unable to best driver in the world. Win- attend his head-to-head meeting with Joe Calzaghe in Sheffield before tonight's vacant World Boxing Council supermiddleweight title fight at the

Sheffield Arena. "I expect to stop him," Calzaghe said as the press conference went ahead minus one Williams elected to partner of the combatants. I think he will fight a cagey fight, biding his him for every minute of every erly he will go definitely."

Naseem Hamed, who tops Head said: "Jacques caught the bill with his World Boxing Organisation featherweight tivindication of their policy on the wouldn't like to split the two. sent the toughest challenge of "What I will say about his 28-bout career.

Hamed has often belittled ences, but there seemed gen-Head also takes the view we uine appreciation for a man with

Badillo had the International Boxing Federation feath-"We have a difference of Johnson, on the floor three

"To do what he did to Tom state than me and yet he put him The title balance shifted Vil- i down three times. So I would

### Pearn back to reinforce

Reading have a testing weekend perately happy going to Jerez, ahead as the Premier League allow for postponements when England go to Cairo at the end of the month.

The defending champions, who started the season with an emphatic victory over newly promoted Doncaster, visit Canterbury this afternoon and entertain Old Loughtonians lomorrow.

They welcome back the New Zealander Karl Sanders and the England international Mark Pearn, who was rested last week after playing in the World Junior Cup.

Reading have registered the Canadian international Tobin Seagal, while Old Loughtonians, who hope to have their captain, Ian Morrison, back following a hand injury, have also turned to the Maple Leaf with the signings of John Mackinon and

Glen Prebble. Teddington will be coming home to the pitch they used for their home games last season when they visit Hounslow this afternoon. They play Southgate away at their new ground at Trent Park on Sunday,

### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

#### TODAY Football

FOOtball
3.0 unless stend
PA CUP Third caralityting round: Gainsborough
PA CUP Third caralityting round: Gainsborough
PA CUP Third caralityting round: Gainsborough
Party v South Shields Hallox v Casalt Town;
Chorley v Restin; Whallord v Arrold; Hyde v
Rythos CA; Emiley beloh; North Furthy v Gavrou; Byth Spartaris v Worksop; Merke v Lincoln
Led; Gainsley v Parnish; Nurseinen Borough v
Struchsidge; Ketterlog v Hindely Und; Bronsgrove Rowers v Procester; Kreppenley Victoriagrove Rowers v Pacester; Kreppenley VictoriaSpalding; Helessower Bown v Redding; KingliLarin v VS Rugby; Helphridge Swills v Flackmit
V Langney; Sotion Und v Roddings; Sough v
Tibury; Kingstonien v W Roddings; Sough v
Tibury; Kingstonien v W Roddings; Stough v
Tibury; Kingstonien v W Roddings v Rominott;
Carathalton v Faither Athalia; tilleriany v Stith &
Belvedere; Challerinen v Paulton; Wood v
Choppenharer, Derchaster v Therron; Basengisties v Carine; Salesbury v Burston; Garunas
y v Materiolovillo.

ig v Haleshooville.

ISTHANIAN LEAGUE Premier Distalous Aylosbury v Bortram Wood: Bishopk Stortford v Harbow Besough: Dublight v Heindon; Custord Chy
v Hachin; Purfeel v Generalm & Northine; Weiton & Herstein v Endeld: First Divisions Criefton & Herstein v Endeld: First Divisions Criefton & Herstein v Endeld: First Divisions Criefton & Harstein v Endeld: First Divisions
Service V Worthing: Wiryhaleste v Aldershot

Lowit Wolfrighern v Hampain, Secured Divisions
Bodical Town v Winter & Bort; Custon & St.PaBodical Town v Winter & Bort; Custon & St.Pa
s v Haschnig; Chestual v Hangerloot; Eghen
s v Haschnig; Chestual v Hangerloot; Eghen Panica, Lievas v Scatinat, Jing v van-deligo (D. Lakas JE. Preude Divisions: Altrin-chen) v Charles (Preude Prisions: Altrin-chen) v Charles (Preude) (Preude); Bellando Auckland v Accomption: Stanfay; Belland (D. Fanton); Lancaste v Particific Belland; Spat-rymoor v Bernber Reitz, Entrico (Preude); Spat-ton Lard v Nedharfelt; Corphino v Parsiny Cellis; ton Lard v Nedharfelt; Corphino v Parsiny Cellis; Droyledon v Fiston; Sestivico (Rom v Witton Albory; Great Harvood v Beaton; Societaridge Participal Park Areduc; Terford v Hamogalo

OR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Buth V Workington:
OR MARTIEMS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Bath
CRy v Createy (20); Combridge City v Africations;
Forcet Green Provers v Burton Abiton: Graeley
Rovers v Pothwell: Hastings v Merthyr Todif;
Remierth v Ashford, Milliams Obvisions Batremith v Ramort, Begend v Blaton; Brackley v
Evenham; Moor Green v Wisboch; Projet
Remigist v Startord Rampiet, Remig Cub Werwick v Satistor Coldibat; Snepshed Dynams v
Grantham; Southams Division: Farativer v Chderlord; Fleet v Beldcot; Newport AFC v Time
Indige; Newport (10W) v Clawedon;
Weston-augor-Male v Weymouth; Yase v Hannet,
WestSTON EAD KGAT LEAGUE Plast Division:
Contentury v Becterham; Greenwich Borrugh
v Follestone Invites; Hythe v Eigh Town; Settenley Furness v Harme Bay.

UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First DiUNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-

lay Furness v Herné Ber.
UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Anutidi v Shorehem; Heasoois v
Paytam; Firstner v Portileit; Saldiestr v Horsharr YACA: Salasy v Eastbourns Town; Whitehead v Burgess Hi; Wick v Borba. John O'Hean
League Cup second round: Helehem v Lanoing: Pascelation v Midninst. ing: Pesceiniavan v Midinarsi.
UHLI SPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bourne v Stewerts & Livydis
Corby, Buckinghern Town v Kernpaton; Co-gerinos v Long Bucking Northempton Spancer.
v Ford Sportis; Stotloid v Stembert, Welling-bosough v Potton; Wootlan v Desborough.

League Caip was traum.

V Bissorth INFECT LEAGUE Premier Designer Backwell v Bisland: Bridgert v Mahamam.

Britiol Manuer Fram v Bridgerter; Chard v Keynsham; Odd Down v Barnelsche; Inmington v Bristogen (Designer), Chard v Bristogen Montherson v Caract v Thankley, Curson Adrica v Designer v Huckwell; Heatiget (Beantsouther), Waltern v Huckwell; Heatiget Main v Melby; Liversonge v Seby; Picturing v Portubact; Swifficet v Operat Adrica (Part V Beant) v Huckwell; Heatiget Main v Melby; Liversonge v Seby; Picturing v Portubact; Swifficet v Operat Adrica (Part V Beant) v Melby; Liversonge v Seby; Picturing v Portubact; Swifficet v Operat Adrica (Part V Beant) v Melby; Liversonge v Seby; Picturing v Seby; Picturing v Melby; Liversonge v Seby; Picturing v Melby; Liversonge v Seby; Picturing v Seby;

PONTARIO STATEMENT OF COUNTY OF THE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP

Routes v Mousley, Chaddarton v Verschall GM, Glassop North End v Citheros; Hollar Citi Soys v Affanton Collerius; Narswich v Burschugh; Rossendiav Newcaster Towns St Helene v Ver-ringion; Selford v Harmsbottom. rington; Sellend v Ramebotton.
"EWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington v BKT
Sporis; Newbury v Windporis; Batton v Downton; Aerostrustane v Windporis; Batton v Downton; Aerostrustane v Windporis; Batton v Downton; Aerostrustane v Windporis; Batton v Downtonsey; Cowes Sporis v Triedchem.
MITERLINK EMPRESS MEDIAMO ALLIANCE:
Berwell v Pershors; Kingla Nordon v Helenomen
Histrian; Pelset Ville v Borwich; Ruhrel Clymple
v Boldmars St Michael, Syndiael Borough v Stilnet; Steparnil v Wechaelield; Serstond v Bridgenorth; Willenhall v Chaselown.
"EWSON ENSTERN LEAGUE Presiler Divi-

vorti: Williamiai y Chasalowin. JENSON ENSTERN LEAGUE Pregiar Divi-JEWSON ENSTERN LEAGUE Pressier Dev-sions: Carden v-Heiner, Dies v Tipfres; Elyv Low-celeft, Gorbeien v Surbury Wersteners, Herwich & Parteeten v Nestens, Newmarket v Greek Yermouth; Sobern v Febesterer, Stowmarket v Heistenet; Surbury Town v Bury Town. ARMOTT BESURRANCE NOTH-LERN LEAGUE Fleet Uskelber Birghem Town v TIM Newcyatte, Cornect v Morpett, Crock v Billinghem Synthonic, Durfrem v Shidon, Esterigan v Marton; Guis-borquot v Sadinoten Terriers, Northallerton, SCOULE (CONTINUE CED MONIE) June

round replay: Logalamouth v Eigh City. PRESS, & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove Rangers v Brora Rangers; Deveronvole v Ramarburgh; Fort William v Kalift. Pantedunjir, Fort Willem v Kelth.
SMINNOFF IRSKN LEAGUE Premier Division:
SMIymant v Ardic Citioxalle v Portadown; Colembre v Ornegir; Crusaders v Genteen; Genteen; Genteen v Lindeid. First Division: Ballyclam:
Comander v Lindeid. First Division: Ballyclam:
Comander v Lindeid. First Division: Ballyclam:
Comander v Lindeid; Lindeide Sallyclam:
Celefic of Wall ES: Aberystwyth v Total Norwork. Schildreid Less Aberystwyth v Total Norwork. Schildreid Less Aberystwyth v Total Norwork. Schildreid Lindeider (200; Bargor Cay
v Pfleydder (200; Berry v Porthadder (200;
Camingdon v Inter Cable El Cardif. (200;
Baltowe V Paul & 201; Caminethan v Welstpool bran v First (230); Ebbar Valle v Conny (230). PONTENS LEAGUE Premier Divinion: Liverpool

Rugby Union

ESMERICA (CUP Pool A. Toutouse v Luinster 220, Pool C. Sain v Pontyprick (236, Pool 2 Cerdii' v Bourgon (230, Pool E. Lienell v Jaledonie (23), Pau v Terrico (530).

Celedonis (20); Pau v Treviso (530).

SUROPEAN CONFERENCE Poel A: Agen v
Biber Vate (20), Pool C: Fanu Constante v Daz:
(330); Statie Français v London Irish (20), Pool
D: Bagiss v Nas; (70); Northumpton v Connect.
Pool E: Bridgend v Gennoble (20), Pool Piblisiess v Toulon (730), Pool G: Bignitz v Newcastle (15); Pool H: Castres v Newth (73). v Örnel; West Hartlepool v Brackheath.
JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Liverpool
St Helerts v Rosslyn Park; Lydney v Otley, Neabury v Leads; Nottingham v Morley, Flassing
v London Welstr, Rughy v Havrogate; Worceter v Witzerleddle. Two Norths Aspatria v Mancleater, Etminghem/Schlui v Sacigley Park;
Kandal v Preston Grasshoppers; Nurseiton v
Lichiedd; Sandis v Harddey, Sheffield v Winhington Park; Waltspill v Stouthridge. Two
Seetlic Budding v Citton; Caroberley v Aorth
Walsham; Hestern v Bridgenter; Hentey v Eshst; Matt Pelics v Chelleriner; Plymouth v Weston-super-Mere; Babard v Rochuth.

WINS SH MATTEMAL LEAGUE Fiere Division:

ston-super-Mere; Tebard v Rednuth.
WELSH MATTONAL LEAGUE First Division:
Abersano v Cross Keys (20); Aberlibry v Caerphily (20); Duneant v Runnay (20); Massing v
Menthy (20); Newbridge v Statistecol (20); Porhypoti v Leaduery (20); Teostry v South Wales.
Police (20); LVMC (Cardiff Ind) v Borymeen (20);
Stat I LEAGUE TROUBTY Group & Currie v

Gaie; Giasgow Hanks v Presion Lodge; Han-ick v Hanks PP; Maines v Edribungh Acade; Musealburgh v Kirksaidy, Group B: Berough-mur v Kimemock; Dundes HSPP v Maisoni-ens; Jack-Forest v West of Scotland; Kelso v Desities Stiffen Coverby u Birothe. Hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division: Ser-ford Tigers v Doncasser, Alumneti Community Centre (120); Seeston v Cannock (130);Can-terbury v Reacing (130); East Grinsted v Southgate (20); Guidlord v Old Loughanians (120); Hourslow v Teddington (130). WEST OF ENGLAND & BOUTH WALES Pre-mier: Bath Bucer v Weston-super-Mare, Bris-tol Univ v Writchuch; Chelantama v Robinsons, Cawedon v Bunton Wels, Swensea v Dester Univ. ADNAMS EAST Premier: Bishops Stortlord v Colchester: Carribridge Unix. v Crostyn; Clac-ton v (periot; Luton Town v Peterborough Town; Sudbury v Cambridge City. NORTH Premier: Ben Anyching v Wigen; Chester v Timperley; Durham Univ v Southport; Hamogale v Shellield Benkers; Naston v Swal-

well: Norton v Formby.
ESt. South Premier: Bournemouth v Winchester; Chohester v Heme Bay; Eastcole v Audery; High Wycombs v Gora Court; Old Whightens v Matchanteaut; Rampartile v Richmont; Trollans v City of Portsmouth; Turbridge Wels v Beckenfram; Wintbedon v Fareham; Wolding v Anchoriens.
Wolfer's THYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES First Division; City of Oxford v Wycombe flye; Fartham Common v Bracknell; Mitton Keymas v West Witney; Mainn Keynes v Sorting; Neubury v Meidennest; Oxford Hends v Remiegh; Beaching v Oxford Hends v Peniley.

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Converse Crystal

Palace v Derby Storm (730); Westerd Royals v Manchester Glents (730); 117 L&E Worthing Bears v Paugeot Bullets Britinghohem (80). ice hockey

Other sports

LAND Premier Divis Parick's Athletic (3.0) Speedway Rugby Union

MUTSET V TENENGEN LA MARCHANDER POOL A: La FUNDERANDE POOL A: La FONNER POOL A: LA F

BENSON AND HEDGES Quarter-finals: Art v NOtinghem (50); Bracknell v Menchester (60); Newcastle v Basingstoke (630).

BOXING Shelfield Avera): WBO super reti-diavaight titler C Exterix (Brighton) v J Catzoghe (Newbridge): WBO super-fosting-weight: Prince Nessers Herned (Shelfield, hold-or) v V Lievres (Cot): WBO super-destina-title eleminater: O Grant (Carr) v P Phoches (Shelfield): WBO inter-continental super-leather-weight titler. D Phile Levelstern) v P (Sheffjeld): WBO Inthr-construction super-isotherweight title: D Paths (Lewistern) v P Griffin (Dubin): British teatherweight title: P ingle (Scarborough, holder) v J I Invin (Don-caster): WBO Inter-continental hosysweight title: P Reid (Sheffield, holder) v W Lewelyn (Deptitrd): Vacant British light-weilerweight title: M Winters (Anthrin) v G Weight (Lewpool): WBO Inter-continental middlesweight title: J Matthews (elington) v D Demontron (Scientine) WBO inter-confinental middleweight title. I leathews (eington) v D Domington (Prestl); Va-cent WBO inter-confinental cruiter-restor v ties K Oliver (Lincoln) v (opponent that GOLF: World Massiplay Championship (World

Football HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE

**TOMORROW** 

Ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr v Nottingham (630); Shaffeld v Navesalle (630); Basngatole v Man-chester (60); Carolff v Barcinell (60) Other sports

# 18/RACING

### ASCOT HYPERION 2.00 Rabah 2.30 REGAL REVOLUTION (nap) 4.10 Winter Romance 4.40 La-Faah 3.00 Saafeya (nb) 3.35 Ansellman 3.35 Anseliman GOING: Heavy STALLS: Straight - stands side; round course - Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 51. Right-hand course with testing uphit finish. Course is near priction of A229 and A330, Access from M3 (Junc 3) and M4 (Junc 6). He copts-landing facility at course (Heathrow Sm), Railway station (service from London, Walerton) addin's course ADMISSION: Club 52. Estimate 28. Silver Ring 55. CAR PARIC Free. LEADING TRAINERS: J Dunlop 28-59 (175%), J Gooden 20-33 (15%), H Cecil 18-97 (185%), P Cole 18-15 (157%), M Stoute 18-172 (105%), J Rearron 18-218 (183%), H Cecil 18-97 (185%), T Quillen 29-212 (137%), J Reid 28-250 (112%), J M Hills 17-157 (10.8%), R Hills 18-333 (13%), J Weaver 11-301 (109%). Favourities: 41-478 (28.5%), BLINKERSD FIRST TIME: Smooth Selling (440) 2.00 MCGEE AUTUMN STAKES (Listed) BBC1 (CLASS A) £18,000 added 2YO 1m £12,429 - 9 declared BETTING: 9-4 Saint Ciel, 3-1 Miss Roberto, 9-2 Soldier Mak, 5-1 Vintage Taltitinger, 12-1 Cam Rock, Trumendisto, 16-1 Thrower, 20-1 Tempted, 25-1 Ferrusino 1996: Stay With Me 5 11 4 J Osborne 5-1 (C Egerion) 9 ran FORM GUIDE BANGOR 2.10 Johnny-K 2.40 Hacketts Cross 4.15 Millcroft Riviera 4.50 Raining Stairs 5.25 Curraduff Moli 3.10 Saint Clei 3.40 Real Tonic GOING: Good Left-hand, und Course is 4m Si staton ADMASSIC LEADING TRAI Davies 9-58 (15.5 LEADING JOC 9-52 (17.3m), T EM FAVOURITES: ELINKERED FRSS 2.10 THF 2m P-3162 RED 0030- JENN 6/15-2 JOHN 4F1/P5 MR F 4 OSL GUN PLAU 500/4- TOBY 440- CRYS 2.40 ST/2m

2.55 WARNDON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £2,955

3.00 A) £50,000 added fillies & marres 1m 4f £31,400 B.  1 1-8345 REINE WELLS (89) (D) (Scularia Perfleg SAS) P Bary (F) 4 9 0		
3.00 A) £50,000 added fillies & mares 1m 4f £31,400 L  1 1-545 RBINE WELLS (BB) (D) (Southers Perfers SAS) P Bary (P) 4 9 0	- -	LAND OF DREAMS would be a srep here on fast ground after her very impressive win from Tippitt Boy at Ayr. That first try at five lurlongs suited her pace, and she was only collared in the dosing stages in the soft by Lady in Waiting at Newmarket (6f) on her second start. Tippitt Boy is 8th better nodey, but Land Of Dreams beat him more impressively then did Lady Atexander in the Molecomb at Goodwood. Mirs Materprop is on the up- grade judged on her dear-cut win at Catterick a fortnight ago. Regal Revolution gets better with each run and is tough. All her wins (two with cut in the ground) have come over six furlongs and she had Thamkeglving (2th worse) over two lengths behind when she beat Sapphire Ring at Ayr last time-Regal Revolution confirming Salisbury form with Hoth Chi Min on 8th worse terms. Land Kirityra reverts to five furlongs for the first time since his Super Sprint win from Pure Colincidence (a pound better off) at Newbury (last ground). Beamingham Blade looks held on the Newbury form and she was also brushed each by Land Of Dreams at Ayr.
1 1-8345 REINE WELLS (BI) (D) Souders Perfog SAS) P Bary (F) 4:90	₽- 8-	3.UU A\ csn nnn added fillies & mares 1m 4f £31,400
2 4-064 SNOW PRINCESS [31] (II) (Lord Winnschi) Lind Hustagdon 58 0 - M J Khatar 7 99 Pile blue, withe 6 yellow check cap  3 440-04 ALCALALI (ISA) (43) (Lorna H Huma) P Kolsany 3 6 7	7	1 1-6345 REINE WIELLS (68) (D) (Southers Pierfeg SAS) P Bary (Fr) 4.9 0
3 440404 ALCALALI (USA) (42) (Lower H Norms) Pickles 3 5 67	Ю	2 ALGSA SMOW PRINCESS (21) (D) (Lord Weinstock) Lord Huntingdon 5 8 0 . M J Kinane 7 96
4 23 BOMBAZBE E3) (Gardel Legin L. Curren 3 9 7	_	3 440404 ALCALALI (USA) (42) (Levis H Norre) P Kalleuray 3.87
5 29/2M DELILAH (13) Rightober Rooms M Stocks 38 7	1	4 2/3 BOMBAZNE (25) (Geralo Lagri) L Currain 3 6 7
6 62162 GRACEFUL LASS (13) (D) (A Misubjeth D Loder 3 8 7	S	5 23/24 DELILAH (13) (Highdere Racing) M Stoute 3.8.7
### Market Publishers   Parket Publishers   Pa	16	e energice architectus (ASS /100 /ON /A M Puddieth D Loder 3 8 7 Touting 5 99
BETTING: 5-2 Reine Wells, 7-2 Sasteys, 4-1 Bombachre, 11-2 Delitab, Snow Princess, 6-1 Grace- ful Lass, 16-1 Alcalail 1996: Time Allowed 3 8 7 J Reid 15-2 (M Stoute) drawn (4) 11 mn FORM GUIDE SNOW PRINCESS, a confirmed autumn more has the ground very much in her favour. She turned in a typical run on ground too fast for her when staying on in fourth in the Park Hill at Dancaster last time. Reline Wells also has the ground in her favour, though her form in modest Group company may not be good enough for this. Sasteys is im- proving and, with Sadler's Wells being her sirs, she has a good chance of handling the ground. She defied a weller burden in a filles' handloap at Haydock a forthight ago and let previous Doncester second to Mithell is nock-solid form with Mithal wirming again since and Rudmental (third) such a good second in the Cambridgeshire. Sasteys as bred to get today's longer trip, while there was fittle between Graceful Lass and Delitah over the course and distance in the Harvest Stales 3 days ago. Selection: SNOW PENCESS  WILLIMOTT DOKON HANDICAP (CLASS B) E25,000 added 5f Penality Value £18,238  ***USE TIEBURROW (13) (CD) (P Davies) E Alson 5 100	13	Yellow, black épésilesse, yellow cap
1996: Time Allowed 3 8 7 J Reid 15-2 (M Stoutie) drawn (4) 11 mm FORM GUIDE SHOW PRINCESS. a confirmed autumn more has the ground very much in her favour. She turned in a typical run on ground too fast for her when staying on in fourth in the Park Hill at Donosster last time. Retine Wells also has the ground in her favour, though her form in modest Group company may not be good enough for this. Seadleys is improving and, with Sadler's Wells being her sire, she has a good chance of handing the ground. She defied a wetter burden in a filters' handicap at Haydock a forthight ago and the previous Donosster second to Mishall is nock-solid form with Mishall winning again since and Rudimental (third) auch a good second in the Cambridgestine. Seatleys is bred to get today's longer trip, while there was little between Graceful Lass and Delilath over the course and distance in the Harvest Stakes 13 days ago. Selection: SNOW PRINCESS  3.35 WILLIMOTT DIXON HANDICAP (CLASS B) E25,000 added Sf Penality Value £18,238  1 66501 TEDBURROW (13) (20) (P Davies) E Alston 5 10 0	4	BETTING: 5-2 Reine Wells, 7-2 Saateya, 4-1 Bombazine, 11-2 Delitab, Snow Princess, 8-1 Grace-
SHOW PRINCESS, a confirmed autumn mare has the ground very much in her favour. She turned in a typical run on ground too fast for her when staying on in fourth in the Park Hill at Doncaster last time. Retine Wells also has the ground in her favour, though her form in modest Group company may not be good enough for this. Saadeys is improving and, with Sadier's Wells being her sire, she has a good chance of handing the ground. She defied a weller burden in a fillers' handicap at Haydock a forthight ago and the previous Doncaster second to Mithall is nock-solid form with Mithall winning again since and Rudimental (third) auch a good second in the Cambridgestine. Saadeys is bred to get today's longer trip, while there was little between Graceful Lass and Delillah over the course and distance in the Harvest Stakes 13 days ago. Selection: SNOW PRINCESS  3.35  WILLIMOTT DIXON HANDICAP (CLASS B)  £25,000 added 5f Penality Value £18,238  1 56501 TEDBURROW (13) (CD) (*P Davies) E Alston 5 10 0		1996: Time Allowed 3 8 7 J Reid 15-2 (M Stoute) drawn (4) 11 run
She turned in a typical run on ground too last for her when staying on in fourth in the Park Hill at Doncastor last time. Reline Wells also has the ground in her favour, though her form in modest Group company may not be good enough for this. Saadleys is improving and, with Sadler's Wells being her sire, she has a good chance of handling the ground. She defield a weller burden in a filles handloap at Haydock a forthight ago and her previous Doncaster second to Methal is nock-solid form with Mithal winning again since and Rudermettal (firth) such a good second in the Cambridgeshre. Saatleys a bred to get today's longer trip, while there was little between Graceful Lass and Delilah over the course and distance in the Harvest States 13 days ago. Selection: SKOW PRINCESS WILLIMOTT DOKON HANDICAP (CLASS B)  8		
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and Rudmental (Imm) such a good second in the Cambridgeshire. Saamys is breat to get today's longer trib, while there was fittle between Graceful Lass and Delitah over the course and distance in the Harvest Stakes 13 days ago. Selection: SNOW PRINCESS 2. 255,000 added 5f Penality Value £18,238 BCT £25,000 BCT £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000 £25,000		proving and, with Sadier's Wells being her sire, she has a good chance of handling the
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the course and distance in the Harvest Stokes 13 days ago. Selection: SNOW PRINCESS  3.35 WILLMOTT DOXON HANDICAP (CLASS B) E25,000 added 5f Penalty Value £18,238  1 66501 TEDBURROW (13) (CD) (F Dakes) £ Alsan 5 100		and Rudimental (third) such a good second in the Cambridgeshire. Sasteva is bred to
the course and distance in the Harvest Stakes 13 days ago. Selection: SNOW PRINCESS  3.35  WILLMOTT DIXON HANDICAP (CLASS B)  E25,000 added 5f Penalty Value £18,238  1 69501 TEDBURROW (13) (CD) (P Davies) E Alson 5 100	G	get loday's longer trip, while there was little between Graceful Lass and Delilah over
E25,000 acided 5f Penalty Value £18,238  1 66501 TEDBURROW (13) (CD) (*) Davies, E Alsan 5 10	1	
1 69501 TEDBURROW (13) (CD) (P Davies) E Alston 5 10 0		
2 2 000044 CROFT POOL (9) (D) (Countrywide Classical) J Glover 6 9 12		
2 2224 AZIZZI (21) (C Brasher) C Egerton 5 9 2		2 000044 CROFT POOL (9) (D) (Countrywide Classics) J Glover 6 9 12 G Carter 9 117
4 S2050 RUDYS PET (21) (D) (Dradgeb Partnership) R Hammon 3 8 8 . C Lowther (5) 11 8 114 Rod, white disc, black & white striped steelers 5 002306 DANCETHENIGHTAWAY (8) (D) (G A Bosley) B Meeting 3 8 7	2  7	3 2.2024 AZIZZI (21) (C Brasher) C Egenton 5 9 2 L Detton 1 115
5 002306 DANCETHENIGHTAWAY (8) (0) (6) GA Rookey I Meetam 1 6 7		4 620510 RUDI'S PET (21) (D) (Bloodysin Partnershp) R Hannon 3.88 . C Lowther (5) 11 B 114
6 20010 PATSY GRAMES (8) (D) (J.K. Grmes) J.S. Moore 7.8.7	v	5 OCC306 DANCETHENIGHTAWAY (8) (D) (G A Bosley) B Meetian 3 8 7
THASEO SURPRISE MISSION (31) (D) (D R Brotherizn) Mrs J Remselon 5 8 7	3	6 220010 PATSY GRIMES (8) (D)   J K Grimes   J S Moore 7 8 7 P P Murphy (3) 2 112
8 32072 AMSELLMAN (14) (D) (Ansels of Wattord) J Berry 7 8 2	6	7 144320 SURPRISE MISSION (31) (D) (D R Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 5 8 7 J Fortane 3 1 13
5 9 000030 REPERTORY (\$1) (0) (4) S Saundersi M Saunders 4,8,2,	7	8 232012 ANSELLMAN (14) (D) (Ansels of Wattord) J Berry 7 8 2
10 C4016 GONE SAVAGE (84) (D) (SF) (The Square Table) Wildson 9 8 1T Sprake 12 110 Purple, emerald grean expaniels, emerald grean sleenes, purple amilets, emerald grean cap 12 34224 SHALSTAYHOLY (S) (D) (L) B (Lesure LLC) G L Moore 3 7 12	5	9 000030 REPERTORY (31) (D) (M S Saunders) M Saunders 4 8 2S Drowne 8 118
2 1 C340°5 GONE SAVALE (84) (D) (87) (The Squase State) W Museon 9 8 1	4	10 126012 DISTRICTIVE DREAM (7) (D) (K Nory) K Nory 3 82 Martin Dwyer 6 B 105
12 34224 SHALSTAYHOLY (9) (D) (J B F. Lesure Ltd) G L Moore 3 7 12	2	11 034016 GONE SAVAGE (84) (D) (SF) (The Square Table) W Musson 9 8 1T Sprake 12 110
Hoyel bits, while inverted transfe  —13 destined  —14 destined  Attainum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Levelled 7st 8th  BETTING: 4-1 Surprise Mission, 5-1 Aztzi, 7-1 Pathy Gritmes, 8-1 Techumow, 9-1 Shakstayholy,  10-1 Ansellman, Gone Savage, 12-1 Distinctive Dream, Rudi's Pel, 14-1 Croft Pool, 16-1  Dancethanightaway, 20-1 Levelled, Repertory	7	12 34224 SHALSTAYHOLY (9) (D) (J B R Lesure Lig) G L Moore 3.7 12
Albanum weight. 7st 10th. True handicap weight. Levelled 7st 8th BETTING: 4-1 Surprise lifeation, 5-1 Azizzi, 7-1 Palsy Gritones, 8-1 Tedburrow, 9-1 Shalotayholy, 19-1 Angellman, Gone Savaga, 12-1 Distinctive Dresm, Rudi's Pel, 14-1 Croft Pool, 16-1 Dancethamightaway, 20-1 Levelled, Reportory	0	13 205313 LEVELLED (7) (D) (BF) (Nexpen Ltd) M Chemnon 37 10R Pirench (3) 13 117 Renel bits within inserted inventor
<ul> <li>Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Levelled 7st 8th</li> <li>BETTING: 4-1 Surprise Mission, 5-1 Aztzd, 7-1 Patay Gritosa, 8-1 Techumow, 9-1 Shalstayholy,</li> <li>10-1 Ansellman, Gone Savage, 12-1 Distinctive Dream, Rudi's Pet, 14-1 Croft Pool, 16-1 Dancethanightaway, 20-1 Levelled, Repertory</li> </ul>		- 13 declared -
Dancethenightaway, 20-1 Leveled, Repertory	.1	Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Levelled 7st 8th
Dancethenightaway, 20-1 Leveled, Repertory		BETTING: 4-1 Surprise Mission, 5-1 Azizzi, 7-1 Palay Grimes, 8-1 Techumow, 9-1 Shakstayhoty,
Dancethenightaway, 20-1 Leveled, Repertory	-	10-1 Ansellman, Gone Savags, 12-1 Distinctive Dream, Rudi's Pel, 14-1 Croft Pool, 16-1
1990; IBURU 5 6 12 M MODERTS 25-1 (M JOHNSON) DREWN (N) 17 (BJ)		Dancethanightaway, 20-1 Leveled, Repertory
		1990: ISBOU 3 G K M NODELIS ST-1 (W Trussmill INSMI Ltd) 1/ URI

FORM GUIDE

Summer Squall won from a stands side draw yesterday so Asizzi, PATSY GRIIMES and Surprise Mission can all be considered with their draw. The numer to the in the testing conditions is Patsy Grimes, an in-form mane who got up late to beat Anaeliman (2b better) at Haydock a forinight ago. Patsy Grimes also gets a 6th pull for the Sandown beating by Rudi's Pat, who has a high draw here. Surprise Mission (hampered early in the Portland) strolled home in temble ground at Chester in May and his course second to Blessingnotisguise gives him every chance today with Olivier Pesiler booked. Azizzi, an excellent fourth to Widwood Power in the Ayr Gold Cup, ran fast in the heavy ground when second to Tomba at Newcastle (6t) in June. Tedburrow faces a starn test under 10st after his course win on the fast from Crowded Avenue, and a welter burden may also find out the back-to-form Croft Pool. There isn't much to choose between old rivals Distinctive Dream and Shallstarvioly, but Dencethenightaway (drawn five) has won in the tinctive Dresm and Shalstayholy, but Dancethenightaway (drawn five) has won in the soft and is weighted to beat the pair on York running in August. Selection: PATSY GRIMES

4.10 FINANCIAL DYNAMICS RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) \$20,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £12,521 

- 11 decarred Minimum weight: 8st 7fb (3f/O 8st 2b) Tive handcap weights: Lomberto 7st 13fb, Cugine 7st 13fb
BETTING: 4-1 Altesal, 5-1 Winter Romance, 11-2 Estatall, 6-1 Heritage, 7-1 Wilcuma, 8-1 Cugine, Danish Rhapsody, 12-1 Greenstead, 14-1 Another Time, Premier Bay, 16-1 Lomberto
1998: Proper Stue 3 8 2 \$ Sanders 12-1 (T Mils) drawn (5) 8 ran

• ••	
4.40 HYPERION STAKES (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2YO 71 Penalty Value £7,178	f
1 2000 CHIPS (21) (D) (Lucayer Stud) D Baworth 9.5O Peolier 5	i
2 15 JAZZ CILIB (USA) (SS) (NY S Farsh E) P Cole 8 18	
3 OSS-00 BATSWING (23) (Richard Withers) M Meade 8 11	
4 10 LA-FAAH (53) (C) (Hamdan Al Maksoum) B Hills 8 11	į
5 122503 SMOOTH SAILING (24) (A R Parish) X McAulife 8 ft	
- 5 declared -	
BETTING: 5-4 La-Feath, 3-1 Jazz Cleb, 7-2 Chips, 7-1 Betswing, 10-1 Smooth Selling	
1996: Anchewy 8 t3 M.J. Kason 100-30 JR Hanconi drawn 48 6 sm	

E	15	DUKE OF EDINBURGH HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 added 1m Penalty Value £9,378
_		added 1m Penalty Value £9,378
1		WELTON ARSENAL (93) (Business Forms Express) K Bishop 5 to 0 R Filmoch (3) 7
2		MUSICK HOUSE (30) (The Money Man) Gay Kalleway 4 9 9 K Fallon 6 B
3	014023	POLISH RHYTHM (9) (D) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 4 9 8 Reid 17
4	5-31	DESERT TRACK (84) (D) (Shekh Mohammed) J Gooden 3 9 6 L Dettori 2
5	061430	Q FACTOR (S0) (D) (H G Colis) D Hayth Jones 5 9 5S Drawne 18
6	<b>588</b> 6	ROCK FALCON (10) (D) (E Restel) Lady Herries 4 9 4
7	04/601	MYRTLE QUEST (19) (D) (Miss M Sherife) R Charlion 5 9 2
8	300465	PLAN FOR PROFIT (56) (Professional Racing) M Johnston 3 9 1 D Holland 19
9	80530	TEST THE WATER (21) (C) (J S Threadwell) R Harmon 3 9 0
10		POLAR ECLIPSE (158) (J.R. Good) B Meehan 4 8 13
n		ZYGO (USA) (427) (The Beechdowners) R Philips 5.8 13
12		ABAJANY (20) (D) (John White & Partners) M Channon 3 8 12
13		PHONETIC (36) (0) (Mss 8 Same) G Bailding 4 8 ft
14		SYCAMORE BOY (USA) (20) (G A Moore) Lord Huntingston 389
15		METRIZ (7) (0) (Normandy Developments) R Aleburat 5 8 8
76		DUBBLIER GOLF TIME (24) (BF) (Condon Pisho) Lord Huntagdon 484
7		ZURS (15) (D) (Gendale Partnership Ltd) J Poulion 4.7 15
18		CAUDELLO (30) (D) (W A Hamson-Allan) Mrs N Dutfield 4 7 10
19		PRENONAMOSS (19) (D) (Mrs W A Cram) D Arbuthrol 8 7 10
~	22.40	LUMANAMA (12) Ind has a storaid puriting a secretarian pulsa a

Minimum seight, 7st 10th. The handicap weights: Caudito 7st 9th, Prenonemoss 7st 5th BETTING: 5-1 Myrtle Quest, 6-1 Test The Water, 7-1 Phonetic, 8-1 Desert Track, 10-1 Dummer Golf Time, Zurs, Militz, 12-1 Abajany, Missick House, Sycamore Boy, Polish Rhythm, 14-1 Plan for Profit, Q Fector, Rook Fatoon, 20-1 others 1998: High Premura 8 6 12 A Cultane 14-1 (R Fatey) chawn (7) 24 ran

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

MILLCROFT RIVIERA is built for jumping tendes and did really well on his chasing debut at Exerter to beat a fitter and more experienced No Light (successful twice since) half a length, rathying gamely after appearing to blow up on the run-in. He might only have been second half as length, rathying gamely after appearing to blow up on the run-in. He might only have been second half as fallen two out, but that must showed himself to be useful by easily withing at the same course next time. Royal fivink is the clear alternative in receipt of a stone. Gordon Richards mare scored three times over hundles last season but there may just be a doubt about her on soft ground, it's a long time since Forest Feetherwon a race and he is har dly improving, while Latest Timpre has stood little racing and is likely to need the run. Manasta landed a Warwick novice hundle by three lengths from El Freddie on the last of three runs last season.

Selection: MILLCROFT RIVIERA

	GREENALLS INN PARTNERSHIP 'NH' NOVICE
.50	GREENALLS INN PARTNERSHIP 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f £2,274
	11011DEL (0E-100 E) 20,000 Educo 2.11 11 22,21-1
023251	FOLLOW DE CALL (28) (CD) (D McCain 7 11 5 T Jenks
	Black, yellow cross belts and sleeves, red cop
00-4	BULKO BOY (NZ) (18) (Nobodys Partnership) P Hobos 5 10 12
	Black and white (frahed), hooped steeves, quartered cap
429P()-	CHARLEY LAMBERT (176) (R Milchell & D Serate) J Mackie 6 10 12 E Husband (3)
	Purple, red seams, stopped cap
6/64-6	RAINING STAIRS (13) (Dr Kenneth S Freser) G Richards 6 to 12 L Wyer
	Floral blue, white charron and sleeves
	RYTHM ROCK (143) (BF) (Peter Radoffle) D Gandollo 8 10 12 R Dunwoody
Ro	yal blue, white triple diamond, hooped sleeves, yellow cap, royal blue-diamond
	STARCHED KING (1643) (E Moore) T Wall 2 10 12
•••	Yellow, black equilets, chavrons on sleeves, check cap
300	TREAT ME BOLD (94) (Daw Evens) P Bowen 5 to 12
	Yellow, rough blue disc. yellow sleaves, rowal blue spots, white cap
DOM	THE SECRET SEVEN (489) (J K S Cresswell) J K Cresswell 7 107
HWU	Red, reliow seams, hooped cap
441 21	ANNIE'S KITCHEN (11) (M E Sowersby) M Sowersby 4 10 6 D Parker V
	Maroon and while stripes, maroon sleeves, quartered cap

- 9 declared 
BETTING: 13-8 Rythm Rock, 3-1 Raining Stairs, 5-1 Follow De Cau, 7-1 Charley Lambert, 8-1 Bulko
Boy, 14-1 Treat Me Bold, 16-1 Annie's Kitchen, 33-1 others
1998: Contrafire 4 10 11 J Supple 3-1 (Mrs & Swintansk), 31 an FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Rhythm Rock's efforts in Ireland suggested he lacks hristing lick and that proved to be the case in two runshere in the spring. Stormytairweather proved too strong on soft ground at Towcester and he was again done for speed in third to Morpheus at Littoxeter when stapped up in distance. Brythm Rock is a leading contender, but RAINING STAIRS could be the one to do him for poet. He has been competing over longer those and seemed to lack stamina when fourth to Peritlands Piyer at Perth in April. That was the case at Stratford on his return, where he was sorth to Supreme Charm. Follow De Call had had plently of chances prior to beating Key Grip over course and distance a morth ago, Bulko Boy jumped poorly when fourth to Scarlet Rambler at Stratford recently and had shown Irmited ability in bumpers last season.

5.	.25	BANGOR STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added fillies & mares 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,287
1	1/130-	CURRADUFF MOLL (213) (D) (John Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 6 11 7 C Liewellyn
2		ACCORDION BLAZE (N E R Brown) R Woodhouse 5 to 0 Wyer
3		BARTON CHIC (Mrs H J Clarke) S Brookshaw 5 11 0
4		DUNRAVEN LADY (David Brace) D Brace 5 m 0L Harvey
5	5	ELLOPASSOFF (28) (E R Griffits) J M Bradley 5 ft 0 B Fention
6	25/0-	LOTSCHBERG EXPRESS (340) (A Clapperton) D Gandolfo 5 11 0 Sophie Mitchell (5)
7	a	PURPLE LACE (28) (Kevin Daniel Crabb) H Howe 5 11 0
8		REDHANDED (David Brace) D Brace 6 ff () Mr S Durack (7)
ğ	P0	TRIA'S ADVENTURE (106) (I P Brown)   Brown 5 ti Q Mr A Brown
10		AMERTON HEATH (G A Greaves) B Baugh 4 10 15 Gary Lyons
Ħ		BOWL OF GOLD (Suin Partnersho) Mess V Williams 4 to 13 R Johnson
2		CHAT IN THE BOX (Uplands Bloodslock) C Brooks 4 10 (3 M Berry (7)
13		INDYSUE (R A Wildns) W G M Turner 4 10 13
14	0	JAQUIES GLEN (16) (The Yearings Limited) P Hobbs 4 to 13
5		JOWOODY (16) (Tagwood Syndicate) Mrs D Thomson 4 to 13
16	3	MAYBRIDGE LADY (68) (Mrs JF Destino), P Hobbs 4 10 13
17	•	MISS MOONSTONE (Mrs J M Jayes) C Wesdon 4 to 13
18	0	PENNYLET (45) (K Jones) M Sheppard 4 to to
_	•	10 declared

mature and purk creat. Write Breaket:

- 8 declared:

- 8 declared:

BETTING: 7-4 Royal York, 9-4 Millionot Riviera, 4-1 Mianassis, 8-1 Forest Fasther, 10-1 Latent Thyme, Holders HIII, 20-1 Loughdon, 33-1 Sexon Fair
1896: The Last Fling 8 10 12 R Guest 10-11 fav (Mrs S Smith) 8 ran BETTING: 6-4 Curradulf Moll, 6-1 Jaquies Glen, 8-1 Barton Chic, Jon Soul Of Gold, 12-1 Chat in The Box, Lotschberg Express, Eliop cordion Blaze, 20-1 Indysue, 33-1 others 1996: Lady Rebocca 4 Tl 3 A Magure 7-2 (Miss V Williams) 18 ren

LIVOEDIAN	1996: Stay With Me 6 11 4 J Osborne 5-1 (C Égarlon) 9 ran
HYPERION 2.10 Johnny-K 4.15 Millcroft Riviera	FORM GUIDE  SAUNT CIEL will take plenty of beating if the ground comes up soft. The nine-year-old
	ran Char-Yo to two lengths first time back at Haydock last season and went on to win
2.40 Hacketts Cross 4.50 Raining Stairs	there off a 9th higher mark than today's next time. He was given a sharpener on the Flat
3.10 Saint Clel 5.25 Curreduff Moil	at Newbury last month and ran really well to be third of 22 to Montecnsio on his favoured soft ground. Vintage Tatitinger has been running well, but his latest run at Perth in third
3.40 Real Tonic	to Chester was disappointing. Miles Roberto had some useful form in juvenile hardles in
GOING: Good	ireland, wirzung at Roscommon and Navan, but was tailed off in the Triumph at Chaltenham.
<ul> <li>Left-hand, undulating course; run-in 325yds.</li> <li>Course is 4m SE of Wresham near unction of AS25 and 85069. Bus service from Wresham.</li> </ul>	She can win races for John O'Shea but has it to do under 12st today. The others are dif-
Station, ADMISSION: Paddock £9; Course £4 (undex-£6 free all enclosures), CAR PARIX: Free.	flouit to tancy, atthough Tremendisto had a recent sharpener on the Flat, while Soldier Mak, who last ran at Leicester in August, does not appear badly treated. Selection:
■ LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 12-43 (279%), G Richards 12-70 (17:1%), N Twiston-	
Davies 9-58 (15.5%), J Mackie 8-48 (16.7%), Mrs S Smith 8-57 (14%.  • LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 25-79 (31.6%), A Maguire 12-53 (22.6%), C Liewellyn	3.40 WILLIS CORROON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C4
9-52 (173%), T Eley 9-89 (101%, A Thornton 6-51 (118%), R Johnson 5-41 (12.2%.,	3.40 D) £7,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £4,720 04
● FAVOURITES: 159-408 (39%).	1 23101 - REAL TONIC (154) (D) (Robert Ogden) G Richards 7 to 10
BLINKERED FIRST TRAE: Signa Run (240), Loughdoo (416), Annie's Kilichen (450) (visored)	Maure and pink check, white sleeves 2 21P-3P GLENFRAN PRINCESS (77) (BP) (Patrick McGarty) P Sowen 9 11 5 R Johnson
	Emerald green and orange (halved), orange sleeves, emerald green cap
THREAPWOOD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added	3 14412- TOP JAYALIN (NZ) (213) (D) (BF) (Mrs Valene Thurn) N Hawke 10 to 12 R Greene
2m 4f Penalty Value £2,369	Black, red braces, red sleeves, black armiets, simped cap
1 P.3162 RED NECK (11) (D) (Mrs C E Goldsworthy) P Bowen 6 11 5	4 B4KIP- GHIA GNEJJAGH (286) (C) (D) (Mrs S A Scott) N Twiston-Davies 11 10 11 C Llewellyn Beioe, brown chevron, sleeves and can
2 146 YOUNG DALESNIAN (25) (C) (B J Garrett) A Streeter 4 11 4	5 211242 BAYEAD (7) (CD) (T G K Construction Ltd) J O'Shea 6 10 10Michael Brennan (3)
3   0030- JENNEE'S PROSPECT (218) (Mrs R H Thompson) J J O'Neil 6 10 12 MicGrath (5)   4   6/5-2 JOHNNY-K (18) (BF) (Norwood Partners) D Nicholson 6 10 12	White, maryon hoops, Serves and cap
1 5 4F1/PS MR PUDGE (14) (D) (Mrs. Jean W Robinson) M Sowersby 10 10 12	6 3/4-32 CYRILL HENRY (45) (Champagne and Dreams Partnership) Smon Earle 8 to 0C Maude
6 4 OBELOS (USA) (7) (Giberts Anmal Feed Products) Miss S Witon 6 10 12 B Powell	Yellow, purple chevrons, yellow sierves, black cap — 6 declared —
7 GUNNER B SPECIAL (F96) (The Eagle Racing Permership) J Neville 4 10 11 J Colloby	Minutum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Cyrill Henry Sst. 10th.
8 PLAUSILAIM (F788) (Philip Williams) W G M Turner 4 10 11	BETTING: 9-4 Real Tonic, 100-30 Bayerd, 7-2 Glentinn Princess, Top Javalin, 8-1 Cyrill Henry, 16-1
10 440- CRYSTAL JEWEL (169) (Mrs babel Palmer) P Hobbs 5 10 7	Ghis Greatagh
11 JUL (NZ) (Herris Associates) S Brookshaw 6 to 7	1996: Factor Ten 8 12 0 J F Titley 3-1 (Miss H Knight) 3 ran FORM GUIDE
= 11 declared = BETTING: 9-4 Johnny-K, 4-1 Toby, 9-2 Crystal Jewel, 5-1 Red Neck, 10-1 Young Dalemasm, 12-1	REAL TONIC did not reappear last season until February, when he fell at the fifth but
Obelos, 14-1 JRI, 20-1 Jennie's Prospect, 25-1 Plausitum, Gunner B Special, 33-1 Mr Fudge	had looked well beforehand. Gordon Richards' runner went on to win at Kelso (2m 11)
1996; Ba Maia 4 tO ti J Rainon 9-4 fav (Mrs A Swirtberk) 10 ran	next time and added successes at that course and at Hexham. Real Tonic has his share of weight but still appeals with doubts surroundding the other runners. Top Javalin should
STADCO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added	have the cut underfoot that he needs and can be given every chance judged on his New-
2.40 STADEO MANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added	bury novice handicap win from Major's Legacy in February. He ran just once more, go-
	ing down a distance to Siverino in very lesting ground at Newton Abbol. Bayerd, successful
1 20F-1 COOLTEEN HERO (12) (D) (J P M & J W Cook) R Alner 7 11 13 P Holley 2 PF-5th FED ON CATS (22) (John Kottler) Miss V Williams 9 11 9 R Johnson	four times already this season, would have beaten Professor Page, who has won twice more since, had he not fallen two out at Ufforeter in August. He disappointed at Newton
3 23211 HACKETTS CROSS (96) (C) (D) (G W Briscos) P Scoles B 11 9	Abbot next time and was easily brushed aside by Crack On in a small field at Chepstow
1 4 13USS3 SKBMA RUN (12) (D) (K W Bell & Son Ltd) J O'Shea 8 10 13 Michael Brennasa (3) B	last week. Cyrlil Henry is 4to out of the handicap, while Ghia Grieulah is down to a good
5 1-1022 TEELIAY NAITCH (16) (BF) (Andrew Paleson) J Godde 5 10 11	merk but has not shown any worthwhile form for a long time. Glenfinn Princess would pose a threat to all it able to produce her best, but she has had problems with burst blood
5 declared –  BETTING: 5-2 Fed On Cats, 11-4 Teejayhtalick, 3-1 Coolteen Hero, Hecketts Cross, 12-1 Signs	vessels and was pulled up at Stratford on her latest run in July. Selection: REAL TONIC
Fig.	
1998: Prince Skyburd. 5 to 0 A Magure 8-11 fav (P Avison) 5 ran	4.15 THELWALL MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICE CHASE C4
NUMARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 CA	·
3.10 NUMARK HANDICAP HUNDRE (CLASS E) £3,000 C4	1 34(0-1 MOLLCROFT RIVIERA (31) (John Certer) R Ainer 6 17 5
1 28030- MISS ROBERTO (212) (M.G. Lincel and Partners) J.O.Shea 4 12 0, Michael Brennan (3)	2 /430P. FOREST FEATHER (260) (D) (Cavid Knos) C Vicedon 9 To 12 G Bradley
Whate, purple stars, maune sleeves, maune cap, purple star	Orange, whate triple diamond
2 00045- SAINT CIEL (USA) (F22) (Tam Racing) F Jordan 9 ft 6	3 4/03P- LATEST THYNE (206) (Simon Sanstzury) T Forster 7 to 12
Yellow, royal Blue style diamond, diaboto on steeres, royal Blue cap, yellow diamond  3 630P5- TREMENDISTO (P18) (D) (D McCain) D McCain 7 ft ()	Brown, firms green sterves, stoped cap 4 06045- LOUGHDOO (136) (BF) (Jim Moltram) R Lee 9 10 12 L Wyer B
Black, yellow cross belts and siegest, and cap	Dank thine, red epartiets, light blue steeves, red cap
4 F5356/ FERFAUFINO (519) (D) (P M Rich) P Rich 9 10 73	5 301- MANASIS (NZ) (224) (D) (Stanley W Clarke) S Brookshaw 6 10 t2 R Johnson Dark green and white stripes, black and white striped sleeves
l Yellow, maroon sash. hooped sleeves, maroon cap	
E LONG OF THE PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROPERTY OF T	
5 1/2444 THROWER (F192) (Mank Owen) S Brookshaw 6 to 12	6 1P2SP/ SAXON FAIR (532) (A Miner) M Sowersby 8 10 12
5 1/2444 THROWER (F192) (Nark Owen) S Brookshaw 8 10 12	

WORCESTER	3.25 DOMESTIC APPLIANCE DISTRIBUTORS H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,850 added 2m 4f £3,451
	1 SPECIAL REMARKABLE IN THE SHOP I SUITE IN MORE (12 U
HYPERION	Royal blue and yellow stripes, royal blue sleeves, yellow start, yellow cap
2.25 Margi Boo 4.00 Hugh Denlels	2 PIUUC. HANNKER HUNTER (USA) (Fis2) (Dr G Madan Mahan) FI Akahurat 6 til 4 A Maguit Black black and red check steeves
2.55 Mr Strong Gale 4.30 Destin D'Estruval	3 2331F. SRAYER STANDARD (224) (II) (G W Lugg) T Forsier 7 11 4 5 Wymn
3.25 Euphoric Illusion 5.00 Sound Appeal	Black, orange disc, orange and white quartered cap
	4 42/113 EUPHORIC ILLUSION (28) (BF) (Mrs S Smich Mrs S Smith 6 10 9 G F Ryan (5
GOING: Good (Run-in and southern bend - Good to Firm)	Dark blue large park spots, pink cap s energy, customers from men of a company fixed on 6 to 7 D.J. Morita
Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a one furlong run-in.	5 52FW CASSIO'S 80Y (185) (D) (Lycristal Rizong) G McCourt 6 10 7 D J Moffs Orange, black trole diamond, diamonds on sleeks.
<ul> <li>Course is on the A443 by the River Severn. Worcester (Foregate St) station tm. AD-MISSION: Club £13, Tattersells £10, Saver Ring £550 (OAPs half-page). CAR PARK: Free</li> </ul>	6 5/43F. GEPSY GEOF (155) (G A Hubbard G Hubbard 6 10 5 N Williamso
except 52 into Picac Car Park	Emergid green, white strengt, emergid green and white check cap
LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 38-135 (28.1%), D Nicholson 26-79 (32.9%), K Baffey	7 P20-12 SKRAM (18) (W P Evans) R Dickin 4 10 3 X Alzpuru (5
24-102 (235%), P Hobbs 22-107 (206%, P Nichalla 12-49 (245%).	Grey red sters, diabolo on sietures and ster on cap
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCov 47-185 (285%) A Maculine 24-159 (151%), N Williamson	8 FUSOZF VISION OF FREEDOM (6) (D) (T G Prost) P Bowen 9 17 0 W Marston I
23-127 (16.1%), W Marston 14-163 (8.6%), R Johnson 13-83 (16.7%).	Red pink diamond pink cop, white spots
● Favourites: 236-655 (36%).	- 8 declared -
BLINKERED FIRST TRAE: Dosses Dan (2.25), Vision Of Freedom (3.25).	Maximum weight: 10st. True hendicap weight: Vision Of Freedom 9st 12th.
	BETTING: 6-4 Bamepour, 9-2 Hawker Hunter, 5-1 Europhic Buston, 6-1 Silver Standard, 13-2 G
I	A A A A A CONTRACT OF A A CONTRACT PARTY OF A STREET OF A CONTRACT OF A

20F-82 MOLDERS MILL (43) (c. Virtually) in weapons of to 1 Royal blue, orange cross of lomaine and armiless, while cap 13H-5 ROYAL YORK (120) (D) (BF) (Robert Option) G Richards 5 10 5 Mayer and pink chock while bleaves

Me II	INNE	is to the control of
4	.00	DURR FINISHING POST HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 added 2m Penaity Value £2,655
7		DR ROCKET (138) (U) (The Rocketers) R Down © 11 (U)
2	•	INDIAN RUN (18) (D) (P State) R Hodges B til 7
3		SUPERMICK (P22) (D) (P Clarke) W Mur 6 m 4
4		SPRING SUMRISE (47) filts D Vaucheni B De Haan 7 10 4
5		FRENO (136) (P A Matthews) K Bailey 6 th 2
6	<del>84-44</del> 5	HUGH DANIELS (47) (Frent Hemsley) C Hemsley 9 10 0 Miss A Dudley (7) Black, red disc, yellow seemes, black and yellow quartered cap
		- 6 declared -

minister Grap: Martharn Copumist. 8 11 4 A.P. McCoy 5-2 (9 Llewetyn) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Old Dr Rocket is nearly always threabouts and should test some of these newcomers, but FRIENO, who was beginning to get it together over hurdles last season, may do even better now he tackes lences, if he does, he is on a handy mark, and being a half-brother to the smart Waterloo Boy must count for something. Supermick times tences for the first time and comes here if them the Flat. He is rated on a par with Freno on their hurdling form and he should be the one to beat with a clear round. High Daniels and Indian Run have seen better doys and Spring Sunrise, off for a season after lating at humingdon in May 1996 and on the floor again there on her reappearance in August, has more chance if she keeps her teet.

Selection: FRIENO

4.30 TIBBERTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) 26,300 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £4,273 C4 20,500 druced (211 41 1 0) form C Mercel D Nicholson 8 2 0 A Maguine
Black, white hoose, black sleekes, while spots
TIMF. FINE THYNE (168) (D) (BF) (Peter Wegand) hirs A Perrett 8 11 9 A Rizgerald
Prite, dark blue hoope
PFTIP. MONKS SOHAM (149) (D) (GA Hibbard) G Hubbard 9 11 8 A Rizgerald
Emerced green, white sleekes, amerald green and white check cap
1P23U4 ANDREDT (7) (CD) (Towy Valley Plant Lid) P Bowen 10 10 1 A RIZGER B
Manne, currile chewon, hooped sleekes, and cap Manne, pusplic chemon, hopped steemes and cap 45446 LAKE OF COUGHREA (12) (DI) (BF) (Ms H J Outley) K Bailey 7 (0 0 ... N Written Green and red (quartered), yellow steemes, red cap - 5 declared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True randicap weight: Like Of Loughree 9st 11th. BETTING: 10-11 Destin D'Estruval, 3-1 Fine Thyrie, 5-1 Andreiot, 6-1 Monks Scham, 16-1 Lake Of BET I ING. 19-1 Loughtes 1996: Philips Woody 8 10 10 J R Kavanagh 2-1 (N Henderson) 4 ran FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Fine Thyrie came back from a lengthy absence and had a sound time over tences last season, winning three times at Kempton (including a dead-heat with Berude Not To). This smart performer is fleely to have another good year but has been unfortunate to have been drawn egenst DESTIN DESTRUVAL. He started off over hundles tast season and it was not until he reverted to chasing that he showed his true worth with wins at Ayr (true hundle, but still a good performence) and over today's course and distance. Further improvement is tikely from the sir-year-old and just how much he might have come on can be gauged from a first-class piece of work he did the other day. Monitor Soham came from comparative obscurity last season to wen a small race at Market Rissen and then stop up on that by cipping protific winner Stately Home's wings on easier ground at Stratford. He is going the right way but still has a quite a bit to find and the experienced Americally is going the right way but still has a quite a bit to find and the experienced and related is more skelly to run into a place. Lake Of Loughres is not the same horse he was in the 1995-96 season and may have his problems.

Selection: DESTIN DESTRUMAL

5.00 LEIGH HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 3YO 2m Penalty Value £2,280 HITCHHIKER (Mass J M Slater) R Woodhouse 10 12. HICHHICE Mikes J M Saleri R Woodhouse 10 12.

PHAYAL (USA) (45) (Gordon James Cossey) P Murphy 10 12.

PHAIRE MINSTREL (USA) (28) (Matris Brook R Dicker 10 12.

SUBMA CREEK (29) (BP) (Loch Joseph) P Hobbs 10 12.

WHSELAWHILE (F109) (Cheteritam Racing) Jules V Williams 10 12. N
P APRIL JACKSON (29) (F1 N Fearmal) P Dailon 10 7. R T
GROVERIAR DANCER (P21) (J E Price) F Variley 10 7. N
MOONSPELL (F138) (The Damond Seven Partnershal) M Willerson 10 7

SOUND APPEAL (F19) 41 W and J R Follery A Foster 10 7. L Aspel (3)

9ETTING: 11-4 Prairie Minstrei, 7-2 Whirtawhile, 9-2 Stierna Croek, 11-2 Ren's Round, 13-2 Sound Appeal, 10-1 Moonspall, 14-1 Khayal, 20-1 Hitchhiker, 25-1 others 1996: Agdets 3 10 7 L Harvey 5-4 fav (H Thomson Jones) 12 run

ASCOT

2.00: Dr Fong, unbeaten and trained by Henry Cecil, will be a popular choice, buy RABAH, who howed much improved form when second in a competitive Doncaster nursery last time, is likely to provide better value. 

2.30: Land Of Dreams was an emphatic winner of the Group Two Flying Childers Stakes at Doncaster, but is penalised 51b for that win. Proven on soft ground and the winner of five of her seven starts, REGAL REVOLUTION holds Thanksgiving on recent Ayr form over six furlongs and should not be inconvenienced by dropping back in trip on this very testing ground. 

3.00: SAAFEYA has been brought along steadily in typical John Gosden style and looks ready to step up into Group company. Yet to race on a soft surface, as a daughter of Sødler's Wells she should not be troubled to cope with it.

3.35: The old campaigner ANSELLMAN relishes soft ground and is handicapped to turn the tables on his recent Haydock conqueror Patsy Grimes. Both have a helpfully low draw. BANGOR

3.10: SAINT CIEL, who is fit from the Flat, could hold the edge over Miss Roberto, who looks the pick on a handy mark in handicap comof the weights on last season's form but has been off the track for some 

3.49: REAL TONIC, who stays well, comes from a stable capable of getting its horses fit enough to score on their seasonal debuts

and should outclass his rivals. The course and distance winner Bayerd is in good heart and should pose most problems. 

4.15 MILLCROFT RIVIERA, who beat No Light by half a length over 2m 1f 110yds at Exeter last time. should have no problems with the longer trip here and looks the sort to improve. Royal York is the dan-

4.50: RAINING STAIRS, who caught the eye when staying on nicely to be south to Supreme Charm over 2m of 110 years Stratford, looks capable of a great deal better. Rythm Rock is a threat.

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WORCESTER 3.25: EUPHORIC ILLUSION: 6/4 lengths third to Major's Law over 2m 4f at Bangor last time after being hampered, can gain compen-sation here. Bamapour is the obvious threat.

000 4.00: HUGH DANIELS, well besten in novice chases in his two outings this term, nevertheless figures pany and might spring a surprise. Freno may give him the most to do.

4.30: DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL a progressive sort last season, starts the campaign on a fair mark and can carry on the good work. Fine Thyne is the danger.

WILMOT D	XU.	МП	ANI	JICA	-	10-7		- 1741		
	1987	88	_89_	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
Fate of the favourites:	A_	8	2	14	5/20	2	Α	21	1/19	-15
Winner's place in betting	: A	2	0	0	3	3_	Α	0	٦J	0
Starting-prices:	٨	8-1	10-1	25-1	11-1	9-1	Α	12-1	8-1	20-1
Wirsing weights:	A	8.13	9:10	7:1	831	79	Α	93	8.7	812
Winner's draw:	Α	2.	12	4	13_	π	Α	19	22	74
Winner's age:	A	3	3	4	4	7	A	3	3 :	3
Profit or loss to £1 states	Fav	ourite	<b>15 - E3</b>	.50 S	econd	Fevo	urite	8 <b>+£</b> 1	. 20	٠,
Percentage of wirmers pl	aced	1 <b>st</b> , 2	2nd o	r 3rd	in lasi	race	75%			
Shortest-priced winners:	CIET	men	Waltz	er (196	38) & 0	)oastz	al Bluf	f (199:	3) 8-1	:
Longest-priced winner, S	loebe	ту (1	990) 2	25-1			-		-	
Too trainer: No trainer has	TVOO	this r	BCS II	none th	en on	ce in i	the pa	st 10	veere	

#### TRAINER TALK - CORNWALLIS STAKES

Rod Millman: "Lord Kintyre Boy would be my best chance, had a hard race at York and he didn't run up to form. He had phase and is is now bigger than he was in the summer. We let him down for a month and now we've got him fit again. He's spot on, really working well."

Mark Johnston: "Land Of Dreams is in great form. tremendous form. It is not ideal that she is carrying a penalty for her Group Two win last time out, but there are no other options. It is arguable she did not beat much at Doncaster, hut Darryll Holland has ridden her twice now and says she is top class. I don't think there are many top-class five-furlong horses of any age, although I wouldn't underrate a horse

Kevin McAuliffe: "On racecourse performance Tippitt FIRST SHOW

like Lady Alexander."

Surprise Mi Petroy Crimo

Ruck's Pet

Distinctive I

Croft Pool

C-Const.H

but Legs Be Friendly is certainly no mug. Legs Be Friendly has been going through a growing been suffering from his trainer running him over the wrong trip, and there is not a lot between the pair at home." Con Collins: "I would not say

best [after she worked on Tude 1) day]. I felt the work would leave her at her best for the

Peter Walwyn: "Regal Revolution is in good form. Land Of Dreams is the one we all have to beat. But Regal Revolution will be getting 6lb from her and that could prove useful."

David Chappell: "I was expecting Thanksgiving to have to take on Regal Revolution who beat her by two lengths at Ayr] again. The five furlongs at Ascot may suit our filly bette than the six at Ayr."

								٠.	
Asc	ot -	<b>- 3.</b> 3	35	-		Asc	ot —	4.10	
		н	_ Ł		1	Horse	С	н	7
	5-1	92	92	5-1		Alexal		-	
SSION.	5-1	4-1	7-2	5-1			10-3	41.	_#
	7-1	8-1	8-1	7:1		Writer Rossence	<u>5-1</u>	5-1	11-2
#	9-1	9-1	7-1	<u>8-1</u>		Estational	5-1	11-2	84
	<b>1</b> 0-1	10-1	10-1	11-1		Wilcuma	7-1	32	74
<u>qe</u>	9-1	<u>12-1</u>	10-1	12-1		Heritage	8-1	13-2	74
	TI-1	12-1	<u>71-1</u>	10-1		Cugina	9-1	B-1	6i
ły	7-1	. <b>8</b> -1	12-1	12-1		Denish Rhapsody	9.1	B-1	84
Dream	77-7	8-1	14-1	9-1					
	<b>22-1</b>	16-1	16-1	14-1		Greenstead	14-1	12-1	14-1
jitarey	20-1	8-1	18-1	14-1		Premier Bay	14-1	18-1	- 14-1
	14-1	16-1	20-1	12-1		Another Tires	12-1	16-1	_#1
	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1		Lombarto	20-1	15-1	14.
y, a quarter the oxide, places 1, 2, 3,						Each way, a @	n The odd	s, places 1, 2	3 (1)
- William Hill   Landson or Thin							:	- 197	

	<del></del> i	Alexal	10-3	41.	44
72	<u>5-1</u>	Winter Rosses	EGB 5-1	5-1	11.2
<u>8-1</u> 7-1	7-1	Estational	5-1	11-2	
10-1	<u>8-1</u> 11-1	Wilcuma	7-1	13-2	74
10-1	12-1	Heritage	8-1	132	74
71-1	10-1	Cugina	9-1	8-1	64 J
12-1	12-1	Denista Pihape		B1	<u> 94</u>
14-1	9-1	Greenstead	141	12-1	141
<u> 16-1</u>	14-1	Premier Bay	14-1	16-1	- 141
1B-1	14-1	Another Time	12-1		16-1
<u> 20-1</u>	-24	Londono		16-1	#:
20-1 28 1, 2	<u>20-1</u>		<u>20-1</u> a 6th the colds	15-1 	
BS T-			а на 1 <i>10 000</i> 3 ла, H <b>– Wille</b> m		- 104
				_	

LONGCHAMP - SUNDAY 2.30 GRAND CRITERIUM (Group 1) £190,796 added 270 1m Penalty Value £112,233 

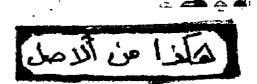
### Big jackpot at Ascot

A Tote Jackpot pool of over the number of bets they wish to £335,000 was only partially won have. at Ascot yesterday, leaving a carryover of £238,492.58 brought forward to today's Ascot card.

Those wishing to try a permutation on the Jackpot races - the first six races - should simply decide how many selections that want to include in each of the six races and then multiply the numbers of selections in each race together to calculate

For example, if a punter

wishes to have two selections running in each race, the calculation is two x two x two x two x two x two = 64 bets. It will cost£64 to have such a permutation to a full £1 stake but most book makers will accept perms starting at 10 pence per line, which would cost £6.40. — Tan Davies



D is for ...

Dettori, Lanfranco: Italian

jockey who deserves to be re-

membered as one of the last

great social reformers of the

20th Century, since he did

more for the cause of wealth

redistribution in the space of

one afternoon at Ascot last

year than Bevan managed in

his entire lifetime. The only

current rider that most

Britons have heard of, and

one who, as the Irish would

say, was not hiding behind the

door when personality was

handed out. He is not the

champion jockey, nor is he

likely to be when the season

ends in a few weeks' time, but

that doesn't really matter.

since 90 per cent of the pop-

ulation thinks he is, and will

do for the next 20 years,

even if he retires tomorrow.

Dogs: These come in two va-

rieties: the racing dog, which

plies its trade at 'Ackney

and the Stow, and the useless

old dog, which is, somewhat

confusingly, always a horse.

Greyhounds were status sym-

bols to the ancient Egyptians,

their ownership restricted by

their real worth became clear

less for gambling purposes, so

about 50 metres away from

founded on the interference

first leg which does win, and

the second, which doesn't.

which often results.

# 19/RACING Desilients

# Lady can bring Johnston's Dreams to earth

Land Of Dreams was a brilliant winner at Doncaster last month but she may have to give way to another outstanding filly, Lady Alexander, in this afternoon's Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot, writes Richard Edmondson.

Mark Johnston was 38 yesterday but he had little to cheer. The Middleham trainer caught the morning flight from Dublin to Newcastle following a rather unsatisfactory session at the Goffs Yearling Sales, "I went to buy 15 like I had done the previous year but I only got six." he said. "The breeders, pinhookers and sales people were horses were so expensive."

National Hunt enthusiasts and

those who mourn the long-

leparted quick-fire style of the

ITV Seven will have a pleasant

If Johnston is to revive his spirits it may be that he has to get back on a plane to a foreign auction hall, however. It was while the trainer was at the Keeneland September Yearling Sales in Kentucky that an animal from Kingsley House put up one of the most eye-catching displays of the season at Doncaster's St Leger meeting.

The Flying Childers Stakes witnessed the sort of acceleration from Land Of Dreams that you would more readily associate from a mechanical vehicle in the Nevada desert. "Her win that day wasn't a surprise for us though the manner of her victory certainly was," Johnston said. "She was wonderful and it would be nice if we saw a re-

peat in the Cornwallis." What may be most wonhappier than I was because the derful at Ascot this afternoon though is the mood of the

After the Knavesmire yes-

terday failed to recover from

the soaking it received earlier

in the week, which also caused

Jumpers in the picture as York falls to the weather

bookmakers. The idea that it only rains on the Crown Estate when the monarch is away in more agreeable climes has gained much credence this week. In a cultural exchange, we have given Pakistan The Queen

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Tedburrow (Ascot 3.35) NB: Lady Alexander (Ascot 2.30)

and they have responded with the donation of a monsoon.

The effect of the soft going in Berkshire on two-year-olds is indeterminate this afternoon, but it is punters who will be left with the brief of guessing. "The ground will be a trial for most of the horses because the vast majority will not have raced on it before," Johnston said. "We've got no reason to believe ours won't like soft ground be-

Meanwhile York's clerk of

the course, John Smith, apol-

ogised following the abandon-

ment of the fixture - earlier

there had been encouraging

noises from the track about

does not carry even Listed sta-

tus, was one of the best juvenile

races of its year. Leaf through

a decade of records and you will

not find a better example of the

capricious streak which makes

this sport at once both irre-

sistible and infuriating. It is dis-

tilled in a list of six runners in

a £10,000 event. This is Essence

Within weeks of the Hype-

rion Stakes, Celtic Swing had

won the Racing Post Thophy by

12 lengths and was quoted at

just 12-1 to become the first

horse since Nijinsky to com-

plete the Timle Crown. The ti-

nal leg, the St Leger, might be

a little close to the Arc, but hey,

he could always win the Arc at

four. As a hundredweight of ex-

pectation was loaded on to

Celtic Swing's young shoul-

ders, Singspiel slipped quietly

into his winter quarters. The

Timeform annual rated him

of Racing.

cause she's very strong, like most sprinters I suppose," Land Of Dreams, in spite of her afterburner, is by no means certain to confirm Town Moor

placings with Tippitt Boy on these revised terms. Others to consider are Lord Kintyre, who was second to the unbeaten Daggers Drawn in the Richmond Stakes at Goodwood, and Lady Alexander, the only horse to have beaten King Of Kings. While the latter's Curragh form might not be copper-bottomed. the third, Princely Heir, another Johnston horse, did go on to win a Group One contest. Lady Alexander (next best 2.30) may just beat Land Of Dreams in a

fillies' forecast. Kingsley House is also represented in an opener which is short on runners but not on intrigue. Their Equity Princess and another contestant, Rabah. cannot be ignored with any

"We had good drying weath-

er overnight but there are

patches of false ground," Smith

said. "In the interests of safe-

ty, we couldn't take the risk. It's

great confidence, though it may be that the finish will be between the other two runners. Dr Fong was relatively unfancied on his Newbury debut despite his forwarding address being at Warren Place and this \$425,000 colt will not attract such generous odds today. The winner though could be Evening World (2.00), who has at least won in the soft and was

The day's second Group Three race, the Princess Royal Stakes, is populated largely by underachievers. In this crowd of giggling girls the safest option looks to be Graceful Lass (3.00), judged on her narrow defeat by Puce over course and distance two weeks ago.

Stakes. The runner-up, Quiet

Assurance, has since won at

The final televised race from Ascot, however, will be fought out by a bunch of old sweats short on top-class ability but with their attitude unquestioned. In such company there is no stouter named runner than the course-and-distance winner TEDBURROW (nap 3.35).

At Longchamp tomorrow, one of Michael Tabor's glittering equine fleet, Second Empire, gets a run out in the third in Newbury's annual pa-Grand Criterium. It is the berade of future champions, the Haynes, Hanson and Clark lief of some, including the bookmakers, who have Second Empire toward the summit of both 2,000 Guineas and Derby betting, that the colt is best juvenile at Aidan O'Brien's Ballydoyle stable. This is not the hierarchy constructed by those at the yard itself, though, who send Second Empire carrying a pot of tea and toast to King Of Kings' lodgings every

### Eddery out of hospital

Pat Eddery left hospital yesterday after undergoing an operation on his back. The problems forced Eddery to bring his season to a premature close five days after notching his 4,000th career win aboard Silver Patriarch in the St Leger.

Eddery's agent, Terry Ellis, said: "Pat is really pleased with the way things have gone. The numbness has disappeared from his legs."

> Second fire at stables of Luca Cumani, page 7 William Hill sold, page 24

# very disappointing and 1 can only apologise to the racing



Level break: Celtic Swing (left) and Singspiel leave the stalls together for the Hyperion Stakes of 1994 but their careers took different paths Photograph: Trevor Jones

# ITV Seven will have a pleasant surprise today when Channel 4 televises seven races from Bangor and Worcester instead of the abandoned meeting at York. Swing's high gives which also caused the abandonment of Thursday's card, Channel 4 moved quickly to switch coverage to the two jump meetings. Swing's high gives which also caused the abandonment of Thursday's card, Channel 4 moved quickly to switch coverage to the two jump meetings. Swing's high gives which also caused the abandonment of Thursday's card, Channel 4 moved quickly to switch coverage to the two jump meetings. prospects of racing going to the Singspiel era

Celtic Swing was hailed as a wonder horse when the annihilated Singspiel at Ascot three years ago today. But although defeated then, Singspiel's durability has sealed his place in history.

There was little room for argument after Celtic Swing sauntered away with the Hyperion Stakes at Ascot exactly three years ago today. All but the most cynical spectators were convinced: they had just seen a horse of outstanding talent and promise, a colt who would curely go on to compile one of the most successful careers in British turf history.

And so they had, only the animal in question was not the

 $\{\varphi_{i,j},\varphi_{i,j}\}\subseteq \{\varphi_{i,j}^{*},\varphi_{i,j}^{*}\}$ 

scot

blue silks of Peter Savill. The horse who finished runner-up to Celtic Swing that afternoon was eight lengths adrift, so far behind the winner that few gave him a second look. He was a two-year-old trained by Michael Stoute, whose future appeared to hold, at best, a chance in a decent handicap, or perhaps a minor Group race in Italy. His name: Sinespiel.

one carrying the claret and

BY GREG WOOD

It is a form book entry which tells us a great deal more than the bare fact that the 1994 Hyperion Stakes, which

joint 34th in his generation, 30lb CELTIC SWING Y SINGSPIEL - CAREER GUIDES behind the colt who had beat-CELTIC SWING en him at Ascot. Born: 21 February 1992 Who then could have imag-Brown colt by Damister out of Celtic Ring Race record: 111/1218 ined how their respective careers would unfold. Three years 5 wins from 7 races Prize-money won: £405,254 on, Celtic Swing is in Australia, taking a working boliday at the Collingrove Stud while 1994 71 Fin Me Oot Median Auction Sta he waits for the new British covering season to begin. He ran his last race just nine months af-71 Greenhern Stakes Im 2,000 Guineas Im 4f Prix du Jockey-Guib Im 4f Irish Derby £21840 ter the Hyperion, finishing unplaced in the Irish Derby, while his pursuit of the Triple Crown went no further than the 2,000 Guineas, in which he was nar-SINGSPIEL Born: 25 February 1992 rowly beaten by Pennekamp. A Bay colt by in The Wings out of Glorious Song leg injury ensured that there Race record: 512/242221/1221121-1141 would be no chance to recapwins from 20 races Prize-money won: £3,660,622 ture his juvenile form as a

E7,686 E2,272 E57,486 E57,768 E17,164 E15,076

\$19,600 \$39,691 \$13,356

£25,590 £265,019 £258,065

21428571

522100

four-year-old. Singspiel, though, is still earning his money the hard way. and how. No horse in British turf history has won even half as much as the £3,660,622 which Singspiel has accumulated to date (Pilsudski, his stable-mate, is the second-highest earner, with a mere £1,698,523). He has won four Group One races, including the Japan Cup, Coronation Cup and International Stakes, not to mention the Dubai World Cup, which has no Pattern status but is as close as you can get to a

racing world championship. He will run at the Breeders' Cup next month (the Turf, in

which he finished second last year, is favoured over the Classic on dirt), while a final farewell to British punters in the Champion Stakes next Saturday is also being considered. No matter what inflation does to prize-money levels, his earnings

"Before the Hyperion, we thought he was a nice horse," Anthony Stroud, Sheikh's Mohammed's racing manager, recalls. "He had ability and we thought he would get better with

record seems sure to stand for

vears to come.

age, but the reputation of Celtic Swing was awesome and I think that we really saw a superb horse that day. He absolutely thrashed Sinespiel, he skated in.

Even at the end of Singspiel's three-year-old career, you wouldn't say he was a great horse, he kept finishing second. He's just a very tough thoroughbred with great determination and courage and a wonderful consititution. He loves racing, he's been su-perbly trained and it's a testament to keeping a horse in

HTTPHEN ETES & Y. (A) (Past B) ETH 18.00 (ET 44.02 ETH 50. 275.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 1752.50; 2380+ Calife Swing (2304) (Fint) Embylianing 8-11 (Challey (4) Six with lad 3f out open 20 out 6884) 9-11 Williams (3) (Rid out open 20 out 6884) 9-11 Williams (3) (Rid out open 21) Will no king) ne Choice (IPR) (IRR) 34554 Jackesi (USA) (16) (76) (Chilosop) 8-5 WCamon (1) (hid up: which up 2 out: an 

How the Raceform Form Book recorded the result

S.T.C. 1. WRIGHT SHIPDGE LAD (II Johnson) 4-1; 2. Tribam Fole 3-1; 3. Lu-nar Dancer 11-4 iav. 8 ran. 8, 2. (Miss Venetle Williams) Tota: 5500; FISQ 2210, F130. DF: 5740 CSF: FISSB Tito: F820. NR: CMon Tigst. Placepot: 523640. Guadpot: £2030. 2.00: 1. DALIPHIN (Mr S Durack) 12-1; 2. New Inn 25-1; 3. Withochapel 5-8 fev. 12 ran, 174, 174. (W Musson, Newmerket), Total: \$18.60; \$3.0, \$5.20, \$100. DF: \$10.620.

four lengths and you rode

3.05: 1. JAFN (R HBs) 5-1 jt tax; 2. Dancing Drop 8-1; 3. Bleased Spirit 8-1. 10 ran. 5-1 (tav Palsade. 1½, nk. (B Hambury, Nov.-market). Tota: £450; £170. £270. £230. DF: £150. GSF: £3095. Tho: £4080. NF: Apache

\$82.

3.40: 1. SMART SQUALL (J Reid) 8-1;
2. Indian Missale 14-1; 3. Pay On Red 12-1
15 ran. 11-4 fay Tightrope (8th) 24-1, 1/6.
(Lord Huntingdon, West Listey) 704: 59-70;
23-50, 24-30, 23-60, DF: £35.70, CSF: C102.08. Thosast: £1,225.78. Trio; £579.00. NR:

4.45: 1. TAUNT (M Hile) 7-1; 2. Manties Prince 14-1; 3. Mattimeo 8-1, 13 ran. 9-2 fav Royal Diversion. 1%, 6. (D Morley, Nav-market). Tota: 58-20; 52-50, 54-80, 53-90. DF: CABRO. CSF: EPI75. Tricest: £74130. Trice 1200-20.

5.20: 1. JASEUR (L. Dettori) 4-1 tav; 2. Gatapino 6-1; 3. Bold Buster 9-2. 10 ren. 11/4. hd. (J. Goeden, Newmarket). Tota: 520: E30: 520. C150. C150. DF: 5120. CSF: 523:35. Triosst: 59592. Trio: C1810. Jackpot: £238492.50 (part won; pool of £238492.58 carried forward to Ascol today). Placepot: £910.50. Quadpot: £119.00.

Place 6: \$50158, Place 5: \$238.54.

CARLISLE 1.50: 1, LITTLE MUSS ROCKER (D Parker) 11-4; 2. Resi Fire 6-4 (Liter; 2. Dissington Times 8-4 (Liter 3 ram, nk. 7. (A Dicken), Total

6840 DF: £400 CSF: £818 Coy) 2-1 fav; 2. Four From Home 9-4; 3. Meadowteck 33-1, 6 ran. 4, 7. (Mas. L. Sid-dal), Tote: \$250; \$150, \$120, DF: \$340 CSF: THE A-Z OF BETTING

GREG WOOD

couple of months later. The Lamb won the National at 5-1, which some might say is conclusive proof that supernatural forces were at work. Cynics, on the other hand, will point out that the winning margin was just two lengths. For what it's worth, your columnist is prepared to share a premonition which has not yet come to pass. When a bright green horse with seven legs and the Queen booked to ride lines up for the Derby - get on.

Druid's Lodge Confederacy:

Three very posh gents - one law to the ruling élite, but was the brother of the Govonly about 2,500 years later ernor of the Bank of England when it was discovered that - and a trainer called Jack Fallon (no relation to they are daft enough to chase an unconvincing dud hare. Kieren), who ran a racing staweek in, week out, without ble high up in the middle of Salisbury Plain around the ever getting frustrated or bored. Individual dogs are asturn of the century with the sole intention of hanging tonishingly consistent - put one around four bends every every bookie in Britain out to morning for a week and its dry. Nothing was left to time will never vary by more chance. Stable staff were than a few hundredths of a padlocked into their quarters each night and their mail alsecond. This, of course, is useways opened, to prevent news tracks insist on sending six off of the latest Lodge plot leakat once with a sharp left turn ing to the bookmakers. The Confederates cheated like the traps. An industry is mad, and gambled like lunatics - except that their plunges rarely failed. Paul Mathieu's definitive account Double: And also for the of their 10-year reign of terror in Britain's betting rings (The Druid's Lodge Confederacy, the Gamblers Who Dreams: Rare is the punter Made Racing Pay, pub J A who has not at one time or Allen) helpfully updates another had a vivid dream in some of their successful which a big race is apparently coups to modern money. Ypplayed out in advance. Nor is silanti, in the 1903 Great Ju-In 1871, Lord Poulett, who to have made them the equivowned The Lamb, one of the alent of £4m. A few months leading steeplechasers of his later, when their filly Hackday, had two of them in the ler's Pride won the Camsame night, both featuring bridgeshire having been the Grand National. "In the backed from 33-1 down to first, he was last," Poulett 6-1, they are believed to have wrote the next day to the won £250,000 - which today jockey, Tommy Pickernell. would be worth £11m, the biggest coup in punting his-"In the second, he won by tory. Mathieu estimates Falhim." Pickernell was duly lon's share was the thick end booked to ride The Lamb at of £1.5m at today's rates. Unfortunately, this was still Aintree, while his owner set about staking on the horse not enough to prevent him everything in his stately home dying, three decades later, that was not nailed down. A without a penny to his name.

5.10: 1. KNIGHTSBRIDGE LAD (R

Place 6: £18935. Place 5: £3841.

HUNTINGDON

in Ace 7-1. 11 rm. 2-1 if fav Tuckera Town (5th). nk, 8. (G Hubbard, Woodbridge). Totas 5240; 5240 5140, 5240 DF; 5440 CSF; 5310. Tho: 9840; Following an ob-jection from the fourth to the third, the plac-ings remain, unalitated.

ings remain unserser.
2.40: 1. HERBERT LODGE (N Williamson) 1-2 tar; 2. Moobelder 7-1; 3. Pangeran 9-4 7 ram. 2, 5. (K Balley, Up-per Lambourn). Tothe: £150; £130, £230. DF: £580. CSF: £812.

3.15: 1. FIVELEIGH BUILDS (A Thom-

ton) 11-10 fav; 2, Pims Gurmer 9-4; 3. Beward Dieu 2-1, 3 ran. 2, 15. (Miss Lu-cinda V Russel, Kinross). Tobe: 22.00. DF: 22.00. CSF: 23.55.

3.50: 1. WAMDHA (A S Smith) 8-1; 2. Star Merket 9-4; 3. Irie Mon 6-1, 6 ren. 2-1 fev Desiring Dolar (4th). rk, 1 //s. (K Morgen, Melton Mowbrey). Tote: £780; £220, £210. DF; £680. CSF: £2002.

4.25: 1, NO LIGHT (L. Hervey) 5-2; 2. Who's To Say 7-2; 3. Sootlish Bambi 8-13 tax. 3 ran. 1%, 5. (Andrew Turnet, Wantage), Tota: 2290. DF: 2370. CSF:

4,55: 1. GATFLAX (M Keighley) 4-5

s., cs. 1. GARTHAN (IN REIGNEY) 4-5 fav; 2. Fin Bec 33-1; 3. Bigeound 7-2. 18 ran. 4.5. (N Twiston-Davies, Neumon) Rote: \$240; £160, £730, £160. DF; £6480. CSF; £5468. Tote Trio: £185. Following a Stewards' Inquiry, No 12 Barton was dis-

qualified for taking the wrong course.

Placepot: £3600. Quadpot: £4180. Place 6: £101.00. Place 5: £4910.

### RACING RESULTS

Total: \$1850; \$300, \$520, \$100 DF: \$10820, \$35: \$25728. Thicast: \$75777. This \$2850, \$2.50: 1. WISTON CHEESE (T Sprake) 8-1; 2. Tueste 9-4 it fay; 3. Late Night Out 5-1 7 ran. 8-4 it fay Courageous (4th). 1/4, d. J. Durlog, Arundal). Total: \$280; \$300, \$210 DF: \$1800. \$39: \$2458. 2.10: 1. PEALINGS (Michael Breman) 10-1; 2. Northern Fleet 2-1 it fav. 3. Just

4.15: 1. GHALE! (R He) 11-8 fav; 2. Chal-Yo 25-1; 3. Weet A-Minute 9-4. 5 ran. 2. nk. (Major W Hern, Lembourn). Tote: \$2.40; \$150, \$2.50. DF: \$23.90. CSF; \$27.04.

2.20: 1. TITAN THAI (Fichard Guest) 14-1; 2. Kings Minetrel 12-11 ter; 3. Gold Bits 7-2. 6 ran. 25, 10. (N Meson), Tota: E15,40; 2350, £120. DF: £10.20. CSF: £25,55. 2.55: 1. LEAP IN THE DARK (A P Mo-

3.30: 1. ROYAL VACATION (J Calagrar) 4-9 tay; 2. Boarding School 3-1; 3. White Diamond 12-1 4 ran. 1%, dist. (G Moore). Tota: £140. DF: £160. CSF: £184. 4.05: 1. COTTAGE PRINCE (G Hogen)

9-4; 2. Pentiand Squire 3-1; 3. Well Ap-pointed 6-4 tax 4 ran. 5, 2 (J Quinn). Total 2300. DF: 2380. CSF: 2857. NR; Royal Cr-4.35: 1. MARBLE MAN (D Bentley) 2-1: 2. Wayuphili 7-4 tar; 3. Cross Carmon 2-1 4 ran. 1 %, 9 (M Peil), Tote: \$280. DF: \$250. CSF: \$554. NR: Baltery Fired.

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTABLES RESULTS 971 981 972 982 <u>YORK</u> WORCESTER 973 983 <u>974 | 984</u> 975 985 HEXHAM <u>0891 261 970</u> Calls cost Step per sainate. T.L.S. pilc. Scripton St EC2A 4(1)

### **HEXHAM**

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HYPERION 2.20 Pebble Beach 2.50 Eponine 3.20 Whitegates Willie 3.55 Jamaican Flight 4.25 Tighter Budget 4.55 Ballindoo

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GORNG: Good (Good to Firm in pieces).

Left-hand, undukning course, Run-in of 250yd.

Course is on manor road 2m S of Heathern, Signiposted from town.
Heathern station 2m, ADMISSION: Club S9, Tattersells S6 (OAPs. CO CAR PARK: free.

© LEADING TRAINERS: G Richards 16-55 (281%), G M Moore See 24.2%) J H Johnson 14-82 (17:%) P Montain 9-41 (22%.

LEADSK JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 24-90 (267%), P Niven 19-88

2(5%) R Guest 11-75 (N.7%), R Garrity 10-65 (S.4%). • FAVOLERITES: 149-388 (S.6%). RUNGRED PERST TRIE: La Perdona (250). CAPITAL SHOPPING CENTRES NOVICE

2.20 CAPITAL SHUPPING CENTRAL 3m 1f COS-1 ETERNAL CITY (47) G Richards 8 11 5..... QOBO BRAVE EDWIN (228) C Grant 7 10 12.....

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BETTING: 13-8 Mister Ross, 7-2 Pabble Beach, 4-1 Elemai City, 7-1 Hobbirt, 12-1 Namics, 14-1 Giveneyourhead, Strongelong, 15-1 Brave Edwin, 25-1 Peachy Beach, 33-1 others

METRO CENTRE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m P PORTONE PORT OF THE ATTENDANCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

-7 declared -BETTING: 4-5 Epondon, 15-6 ibn Mastrab, 10-1 La Perdons, 12-1 For-ture Hunter, Tribal Mischinf, 20-1-The Tig. 40-1 Bout

REGIONAL RAILWAYS NOVICE H'CAP 3.20 CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 110 yds 

## SUMMENT FURD \$17) N Mason 7 (1) 0 . L McGrath (7) B
## 8 declared
### BETTING: 3-1 Whitegates Willin, 7-2 Bettery Fired, 4-1 Salam Beach,
9-2 Astralaon, 5-1 Papparezo, 12-1 Super Guy, 25-1 On Golden Pond,
33-1 others 3.55 HENNESSY COGNAC SERIES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS 8) £8,000 added 2m

20022 MCK ROSS (177) R Brevis 8 to 12 AS Smith
P THIGGERFEH (40) P Monteith 5 to 2 A Dobbto
1 RYING NORTH (5) (CD) Mrs M Rovels 4 to 11 P Niven
11-111 JAMAICAN FLIGHT (14) ED) Mrs S Lengmen 4 to 11 A Thordon
2-P1S PALAMON (USA) (18) (D) P Excles 4 to 11 R Guest
00003 AMBER HOLLY (154) D box 8 to 7 BS Storey
6 declared — 5 deciared — B Storey — 5 deciared — B Storey — 5 deciared — BETTING: 5-4 Jamesican Flight, 2-1 Palemon, 11-4 Flying North, 8-1 Nick Ross, 50-1 others

far, make a very careful note of whatever finishes second. 4.25 IN SITU HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds 

training at five. He's come a

long way since Ascot, and

that's the wonderful thing

about racing, you never know

Celtic Swing, though, there is

nothing but the thought of

what might have been. "It was

a great performance at As-

cot," Nick Babington, Peter

Savill's racing manager, says. "It

was just a shame about his in-

jury. A lot of people have said

that Singspiel improved a lot af-

ter that and he probably did, but

I know that Michael Stoute rat-

ed him very highly that day. But

he stayed a sound and fit horse

and unfortunately Celtic Swing

For punters, the lessons of

the 1994 Hyperion Stakes are

clear. Never take anything for

granted, particularly when it

comes to ante-post betting.

And no matter what wins the

race this afternoon, or by how

had his leg problems."

For the connections of

what's around the corner."

Miningen weight: 10st. Taxe handing weight: Wells Court 9st 12h. BETTING: 7-4 Tighter Budget, 4-1 Have A Brandy, 9-2 Rellylina Rallegio, 8-1 Walls Court, Stazing Dawn, 12-1 Classic Contact 4.55 METRO CENTRE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,800 added 3m

GCASS F) E2,000 structed of the first of the

Minimum: 10st. Two weights: Dorf Forget Cartis Set Sib. My Missie Set Sib. SETTING: 11-4 Berlindon, 7-2 Bearing, 9-2 Highland Way, 6-1 Jubran, 7-1 D'Arblay Street, 8-1 Manehill, 12-1 My Missie, 25-1 Donf Forget Cartis

RUGBY UNION

# Wasps seek respect from Greater Myopia

Lawrence Dallaglio's Wasps team have not lost a competitive game of rugby for six and a half months and if they beat Swansea tomorrow. they will head the Heineken Cup rankings

as the only unbeaten side in the quarter-finals.

But as Chris Hewett discovered, the captain believes his men are getting a raw deal from the sceptics.

If old habits die hard, old prejudices are even more difficult to flush out of the system. To listen to the short-sighted partisans in the traditional English rugby union heartlands of the West Country and the East Midlands - soon to be rechristened Greater Myopia - last season was either a freak aberration or simply did not happen at all. Wasps? Champions? Only by default, apparently.

The blue-collar Londoners knocked the long-standing Bath-Leicester hegemony clean off its foundations by winning the 1996-97 Courage League title, but any grudging respect they might have received quickly disappeared beneath a tidal wave of knee-jerk excuses and pleas of mitigation. Bath's campaign had been undermined by boardroom acrimony, Leicester's comprehensively wrecked by injury and fixture congestion.

And what about that ridiculous Subbuteo pitch at Loftus Road, where the only route round Gareth Rees, Wasps' capacious full-back, was via the fish and chip shop in Shepherd's Bush High Street? "Wait until we get 'em on a full-sized paddock," muttered the vanquished.

Even now, almost two months into the new season, the doubters are still up there on their soapboxes. "Wasps have had it easy," they say "No French club in their Heineken Cup group. They may be in the last eight, but they haven't played anyone yet." Lawrence Dallaglio, the inspirational bodies the Wasps work ethic and defines their all-purpose expertise, can be forgiven for feeling just a little cheesed off.

"Look, you play the teams you're drawn against," he said this week. "A lot has been made of our supposed favourable draw in the

Heineken Cup, but we worked incredibly hard to win the Courage League last season and one of the rewards for that achievement was to go into the European draw as the number one English side. I think it was entirely right that we found ourselves where we did.

"I suppose it would be fair to say that had we been forced to play in France during the pool phase, we would have had to look very carefully at our preparation and "up" things a notch. But it's also relevant to point out that we played Toulouse in last season's competition and put 70 points on them.

'We're a very focused side at the moment, both physically and mentally, and while we treat all opponents as a serious threat, we don't hold anyone in awe. If and when we have to play a big French side, we'll relish the task." For the moment Dallaglio is

more concerned with making a decent fist of tomorrow afternoon's Pool B finale against the maverick under-achievers of Swansea. The Welshmen frightened the living daylights out of Wasps in the opening round of matches last month, but have been ensconced in cock-up mode ever since. Defeat at Loftus Road would almost certainly end their European interest for another season.

"It's a must-win game for them, but it's a must-win game for us too for one very good reason," said the captain. "This time last season, things were going very well indeed for us. much as they are now. Then we played a Welsh side, Cardiff, at home in the Heineken and messed it up. Not only did it effectively cripple our chances of a knock-out place, but it sent us careering off the rails for a while. Γve had a feeling of déjà vu all week and I'm not comfortable with it.

"Winning regularly has been wonderful for morale and confidence and all the other mental things that give a side an edge. We don't have a problem travelling away now - unlike many other sides, we take our form on the road with us - and as long as we keep our mo-Swansea is central to maintaining that momentum and apart from anything else, it will ensure us a home draw for as long as we stay in the competition. It could be crucial."

That territorial advantage, so valuable in a tournament of this intensity, will be the main mo-

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Focused on winning: Wasps captain Lawrence Dallaglio takes a break during training this week

The log jam in Pool E is even

more reminiscent of a bad Fri-

day night on the M25. Pau, the

Challenge du Manoir champi-

ons and stone-cold certainties

for a home quarter-final tie just

as recently as a fortnight ago.

have lost two on the bounce and

are now fighting for their lives

in a compelling four-way scrap

with Llanelli, Treviso and Cale-

donia. The Italians genuinely

fancy their chances after run-

ning in 96 points in their last 160

minutes of rugby, even though

ternoon. "It's not over yet," said

their captain, Alessandro Tron-

and everything to gain."

French look to polish their dominance

joined by Colomiers and Cas-

tres. Of the English contingent,

only unbeaten Newcastle are

certain to play a role in the lat-

Premiership sides, Gloucester

and Northampton, need to pre-

vail in difficult circumstances

this weekend to retain an in-

terest. Gloucester, who must

win in Padova tomorrow, trav-

el without their two England in-

ternationals. Mark Mapletoft

(groin trouble) and Phil Green-

Two other Allied Dunbar

tivation for Harlequins when stacked against them, however.

Cardiff, who are developing they must play in Pau this af-

all-important top spot with a con. "We have nothing to lose

The English clamour for a fifth table and they are likely to be

they tackle the implacable Mun-

ster hordes in Limerick tomor-

row, although the issue will be

settled in the Londoners' favour

if the hit-and-miss Frenchmen

of Bourgoin discover some

away form and turn Cardiff over

at the Arms Park this afternoon.

The Pool D contest always

looked likely to go the wire and

the organisers' decision to keep

the pot boiling by introducing

a quarter-final play-off round is

looking more inspired by the

a real taste for European comition, can still deny Ouins the

comprehensive victory over

Bourgoin, who in turn are chas-

ing a stay of execution as the

best third-placed side from the

five pools. Such is the broad

sweep of possibilities that Marc

Cecillon's side could even fin-

foothold in the Heineken Cup

may be growing in volume, but

the evidence provided by the

second-tier European Confer-

ence tournament is not sup-

portive. Last season, the French

contributed seven of the eight

quarter-finalists and their con-

tinuing dominance will surely

be brought to bear when in-

creased national representa-

tion in the main competition

Stade Français already have

their feet under the knock-out

Agen, Montferrand and

comes up for discussion.

Photograph: Peter Jay

typridd side with the scent of HEINEKEN CUP blood in their nostrils. The **STANDINGS** Weishmen have suffered trials

it. With victory equally impor- Pool B

Jon Sleightholme, transferlisted by Bath this week, makes a rare appearance on the right wing and has a timely opportunity to impress any prospec- Pool D Cardiff say they are interested in the England flier's services, although not at the six-figure

One fixture towers above all others, however, Bath, their self-belief profoundly weakened by the hiding dished out by Brive last weekend, put their pool leader status on the getting funnier by the minute. ish second. The odds are line against a pumped-up Pon-

and tribulations of almost biblical proportions over the last five weeks, but are still in there with a puncher's chance, as Dale McIntosh might have put tant to both sides, the Recreation Ground atmosphere will be at its most gloriously neu-

price demanded by the West Countrymen, while Bristol, who have no money at all, insist they are in the market whatever the fee. It's a funny old game,

placed by Nick Osman and

must contend with Connacht,

who thrashed the Saints in

Galway in the opening match

of the campaign and then un-

expectedly saw off Nice, and

Bègles-Bordeaux (home and

away) to leave themselves top

going into today's showdown at

Franklins Gardens. It is a

Chris Hewett and Munster.

Northampton, meanwhile,

Neil McCarthy respectively.

Only the pool winners are assured of a place in the last eight. The five runners-up, seeded on pool performance, and the best third-placed side pair off in three sudden-death games to determine the remaining quarter-finalists. The four top-performing pool winners can look forward to a home quarter-final tie - Wasps are already guaranteed that advantage and Toulouse, Bath and Harlequins will loin them if they win this weekend - and the same system will be used to decide on venues at the semi-final straight winner-take-all shoot- : stage. After five weeks of bruisout and with Eric Elwood in ; ing, blistering rugby, only three fine kicking form for the visi- sides are definitely out of the runtors, it is also too close to call, ining: Milan, Scottish Borders

CRICKET

### BASKETBALL Royals sack

Watford Royals changed their name, their venue, their coach and most of their players for the new Budweiser campaign, but following the same schedule as last season they have sacked their coach, with club director Vince Razaq taking over.

on schedule

Last season, defeat at Sheffield on 4 October cost Mark Dunning his job as coach to Hemel Royals; last Saturday at Thames Valley Tigers saw the end for Dana Beszczynski.

"It's only a temporary measure," Razaq said, "We need to see who is around and we have to get the decision right this time. Unfortunately for Razaq.

tonight's opponents, Manchester Giants, have relieved the pressure on their own coach, Jim Brandon, with two wins after losing their first three games. They capitalised on an injury to Billy Singleton last Sunday to beat Leicester City Riders 89-73. - Richard Taylor

### ing (neck strain) will be re-

### Inzamam and Azhar steady Pakistan

Henry Blofeld reports from Rawalpindi Pakistan 456 and 182-6 South Africa 403

There was time on the last afternoon yesterday when South Africa might just have won this first Test match, but half-centuries by Inzamam-ul-Haq and Azhar Mahmood saved Pakistan from embar-

rassment and secured the draw. Pakistan, with a firstinnings lead of 53, collapsed to 80 for 5 but Inzamam and Azhar calmed any fears with a sixth-wicket partnership of 68 in 69 minutes. Soon after Inzamam was dismissed bad light forced an early closure with 12.2 overs remaining.

Inzamam hit a hard-hitting 56 that included 10 boundaries from 82 balls while man-of-thematch Azhar Mahmood followed up his unbeaten 128 with an unbeaten 50 to become

the first Pakistani to score a century and a half century on his debut. "To be honest, both times I went to the crease. Pakistan were in trouble. But thanks God, I rose to the occasion." Azhar said.

Jacques Kallis and Pat Symcox had given South Africa a glimmer of a hope when they each took two wickets after Allan Donald had removed Saeed Anwar, but the sixthwicket pair prevented any further drama although the South Africa captain, Hansie Cronie, dismissed Inzamam shortbefore the early close.

After South Africa resumed on their 359 for 6 Mushtaq Ahmad took three of the four wickets to fall although Azhar made the initial breakthrough when he had Shaun Pollock smartly caught by the substitute wicketkeeper

Mohammad Wasim for 48. Pollock shared a seventhwicket partnership of 106 with Dave Richardson who ran out

of partners and finished on 45 not out.

Place 1-5 2-33 3-42 4-60 5-80 6-148. Died not bat. Sacplan Misshiaa, Waqar Younia, Mushiaa Chimed. Bowther Donald 11-4-25-11: Pollock 8-1-22-0 (nbt): McMillan 8-1-24-0 (nbt): Kallis 74-1-21-2; Symcox 16-2-56-2; Cronje 6-1-29-1 Culfman 1-0-2-0. Umpires: S Venkotaraghavan (Indie) and least Alletier.

■ The Kenya openers Deep-ak Chudasama and Kennedy Otieno scored a world record first-wicket partnership of 225 in the President's Cup trinations one-day international against Bangladesh yesterday. The previous highest was 212 by Australia's Graham Marsh and David Boon against India in Jaipur in 1986-87.

RUGBY LEAGUE

### Bell's switch opens door for Murray

One of the top jobs in hurry to appoint a succesrugby league is vacant following Dean Bell's decision to stand aside as Leeds' coach.

Dave Hadfield fully expects a high-profile Australian to take over the reins.

Dean Bell's decision to switch domains at Headingley from the first team to youth development had a lot to do with job security. Bell turned down the

offer of an extended contract in his previous role. His new job carries a three-year contract, whereas the more precarious one of coach only carried the offer of an extra 12 months from the expiry of his current deal next April.

"While I will miss the intensity and weekly excitement of Super League matches, I have to admit that this position offers me stability," Bell said. Both he and the club stressed that the decision was his alone.

Bell, an outstanding player, notably for Wigan and Great Britain, had a difficult first season with Leeds only narrowly avoiding relegation. There was a marked improvement this time, although the club were dis-

appointed at finishing fifth. "Dean has done an excellent job and leaves a very different squad to the one be inherited," Gary Hetherington, Leeds' chief executive, said. The changes in attitude, determination and hunger among the squad can be credited to him and his staff. We now have the proper foundation on which to build."

Although Hetherington

sor, the identity of the man to be entrusted with that building was a matter of inmediate and wide ranging speculation.

John Monie's name has been linked with Leeds for years, and he and Bell are close allies. The indications are, though, that when Monie returns to Britain it will be to take charge of one of the proposed new fran-

Other suggestions are the former Bradford coach, Brian Smith, now with Parramatta, and the Great Britain coach, Andy Goodway, who was in charge at Paris last season, but would be available for a position at an English club for next

The likeliest to emerge as favourite, however, is the Hunter Mariners coach Graham Murray, whose side meets Cronulla in the World Club Championship serai-final today.

Murray has impressed at both Illawarra and Hunter, but will be out of work when Hunter are scrapped as part of the peace deal between Super League and the Australian Rugby League.

Meanwhile, the turmoil continues at Hull, promoted to Super League for next season, but now losing their second chairman in a

nci?

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Ē

Cricket

λ.

Roy Wandby, who only resumed the chair in September, has resigned after what he described as a clash of personalities with the new chief executive. Mike Appleton.

Two other directors are considering their positions after being asked to resign by the club's owner, the tennis entrepreneur. David Lloyd, who also owns their said that the club was in no neighbours, Hull City.

### **Betts out of Test series** as Brisbane win a classic

Dave Hadfield Brisbane Auckland.

The Auckland Warriors could not hold Brisbane for the full 80 minutes of a compelling semi-final of the Visa World Club Championship - but the biggest losers were Great Britain.

The Auckland second row Denis Betts, one of Britain's few truly worldclass players, tore a shoulder muscle in the first half at ANZ Stadium and ruled himself out of next month's Test series against Australia. "I'll be having an oper-

ation next week," he said "and it could be a five or sixmonth job, the doctor says." That is appalling news for Great Britain, especially taken in the context

of an unforgettable match. Auckland played a full part in what must be one of the most gripping games ever played and they led through an early try from Shane Endacott but then took a fearful battering. Ben Walker played an

important role in Brisbane's

triumph, starting with an opportunist try from his own kick, which he converted.

Gordon Tallis wrestled his way through for a second try and it looked as though Brisbane might gallop clear, but Auckland hit back with a counter-attack, begun by Lee Oudenryn behind his own line and finished by him, five tackless later, when he leapt to catch Gene Ngamu's kick and touch down.

Matthew Ridge's conversion levelled the scores and the Warriors went ahead five minutes after the restart, with Oudenryn again taking a high kick, this time from Stacey Jones.

Mistakes started to creep into Auckland's play and in the space of four minutes Kevin Walters got over for one try and then set Walker up for another.

The quality of the spectacle, though, will be of little consolation to Auckland Betts or Britain.

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

 He's always got an italian-English phrase book with him when he's reading. Mind you, that's for him to stand on. Graeme Le Saux on his Chelsea team-mate, Gianfran-

● Two weeks before the game I'll stop talking to you. And a week before I'll start kicking you. Zola to Le Saux in the build-up to tonight's game in Rome.

● I'll have a hell of a job not leaping up if he scores. Tony, Banks, Sports Minister and Chelsea fan, on Zola.

■ Christian Dailly – sounds like a Salvation Army newspaper. Alan Parry, Sky Sports commentator on the Der-

If he was in Star Trek, he'd be the best player of whichever er solar system they were in. Ian Wright on his Arsenal team-mate Dennis Bergkamp.

Matthew Gatward

GOLF: WORLD MATCH PLAY



Emie Els plays his approach shot to the 15th green in his 7 and 6 victory over lan Woosnam at Wenworth yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

# Montgomerie finds Faxon a game too far

Colin Montgomerie has a record on his mind but, as Andy Farrell explains, the long season proved too much for him at Wentworth yesterday

A flu-ridden Colin Montgomerie will have his first unplanned weekend off for exactly a year. The Scot has not missed a cut this season, but playing his ninth tournament in a row caught up with him yesterday as

be lost 2 and 1 to Brad Faxon. In the last three weeks, Montgomerie has finished second twice and played a not inconsiderable role in the body said 'no' today."

winning of the Ryder Cup. "I am run into the ground," he said. "I'm going home for a well earned rest.

"I've had a job to do. I'm going for a record and it is causing me health problems." The record he is attempting

is an unprecedented fifth consecutive Order of Merit victory. Montgomerie is £45,000 ahead of Bernhard Langer on the money list going into the Volvo Masters at the end of the month. Before that he will lead Scotland in next week's Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews. "I'm not going to say it is this is a blessing in disguise," he said of his defeat. "The mind was keen but my

Montgomerie was two up after six holes in the afternoon when Faxon lived up to his reputation as a fine putter. The American had just lost

three holes in a row when he holed from 25 feet for a half at the seventh. Two holes later, he holed from 30 feet again for the half. Faxon won the next four holes as Montgomerie ran out

"It is satisfying to beat Colin." said Faxon, who had beaten another of his European Ryder Cup counterparts in Darren Clarke the day before.

of steam.

"He was a little sick today, but he is one of the best players in the world and you know pars are not going to be enough to beat someone like that." He plays Vijay Singh in the semifinal after the Fijian heat Steve Elkington 5 and 4.

Montgomerie did have some good news in that his wife Eimear is expecting their third child next May. But he added: "This was planned and it will not affect my decision whether to go to America or not."

The other semi-final will be battle of the southern Africans, Ernie Els and Nick Price. Both had convincing victories, Els by 7 and 6 over Ian Woosnam, while Price had to go a hole further, to the 31st, in beating Frank Nobilo.

Golf may not be brain surgery, but it is clearly not rocket science, either, Woosnam's utilisation of his NASA-designed driver was far less effective than Thursday, but the bad golfer was not blaming his tools. "It is not the driver, is it," Woosnam said. "It is obviously me."

There is no such thing as an evenly tempered Woosnam. Since he won the Volvo PGA here in May, the Welshman has finished in the top 10 at a tournament only once and it is getting him down. "One day is good, one day is bad. You can't play like that. You have to be

more consistent in this game. "When I am swinging the club, it is like . . . desperate," added one of the sweetest swingers of a golf club in his prime. "There doesn't seem to be any groove to it. I don't physically know how to draw the ball properly and that is my problem. It has been like this for a number of years. I carry on bashing my head against the

Els, who was made an honorary member of the Wentworth Club on Wednesday night, scored a morning round of 67 to take a four hole lead into lunch.

A defeat for Els would have meant Sporting Index giving up a large amount of largesse after they offered golf writers, not known for being au fait with spread betting, a free wager. The few who bought Els, however, are feeling confident. Today's semi-final les-off times: 8.30 and 12.45: Els v Price; 8.45 and 1.0: Faxon v Shigh.

### Henman waiting for Rusedski

Tim Henman looked forward to a potential encounter with Greg Rusedski today after cruising into the semi-finals of the CA Trophy in Vienna yesterday.

Henman repeated last week's 6-4, 6-1 defeat in Basic of Karol Kucera and could face the world No 4 for the first time since last year's National Championships in Telford.

The British No 2 knows that victory would earn valuable world ranking points as he seeks to emulate Rusedski in reaching the world's top 10.

It was not all plain sailing for Henman as he struggled to conquer the Slovakian in the first set. In the fifth game he appeared to have made his early territorial advantage count when Kucera doublefaulted at a crucial point to give Henman the advantage. But in the ninth game Kucera survived two set points on Henman's serve to break back.

"At 5-3, 40-15 in the first set. I lost the rhythm of my scrve and allowed him to break back," Henman said. "But in the second set, I played as good as I have in a long time." Henman recovered to take the set on his fourth match point.

The second set followed serve until Henman found some excellent form, particularly a cross-court drop shot which left Kucera rooted to the baseline, to break in the fourth

game to gain a 3-1 lead. Henman cruised through the next game for a 4-1 lead as a clearly wearied Kucera wilted. Henman broke again for a 5-1 and he served out to complete a "satisfying" win and set up a mouth-watering meeting with

Jim Courier was swept out of the Singapore Open quarterfinals by Thomas Johansson yesterday as the leading seeds continued to fall.

The Swede beat the American No 3 seed 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, shortly after second seed Marcelo Rios had lost 6-1, 7-5 to Nicolas Kiefer in just 58 min-

Also out is the defending champion, Jonathan Stark, who had beaten top seed Michael Chang in the first round. Stark lost 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 to Mag-

nus Gustafsson and Michael Tillstrom completed the trio of Swedish semi-finalists by beating Martin Damm 7-6, 6-1. Courier, seeking his second successive title after a victory in

Peking last week, said he had a muscle problem from early on. "I came out playing really well in the first set but pulled a muscle in my left thigh early in the second set and so could

not move around well," he

Kiefer was delighted with his demolition of Rios. "I watched him play two days ago and knew that I had to serve big. He returns very well, so it was necessary for me to find my serve early," the German

Rios felt the match had turned in the 11th game of the second set when he failed to capitalise on a break point.

"He served very well today. His first serve was getting him important points," Rios said. "Maybe I tried to bit the ball too hard, but if I had broken in the 11th game I think the result would have been different.

In the semi-finals Kiefer meets Tillstrom while Gustafsson plays Johansson.

t series

3 (35%

### Howey's gold puts Britain back on the map

Kate Howey won Britain's first and Olympic champion, in the taking the women's middieweight section.

medallist at light-heavyweight in Canada four years ago, beat the powerful German, Anja von Rekowski by ippon in the final.

Earlier, she defeated Min-Sun Cho, the Korean world Africa.

The 24-year-old, a silver

gold medal at the World Cham- semi-final. She beat Cho in were raised in the men's division pionships in Paris yesterday by style, going straight into her at- as light-middleweight Graeme denly, Howey bent down to snatch Cho's legs, pulled her into Ok Chol Kwak, of North Korea, the air and pushed her on to her back. Howey had earlier beat- took the decision, and forced en Edith Bosch of the Nether- Randall into the repechage and lands and Sally Bucton of South a chance for a bronze.

British hopes for a medal tack and causing her opponent. Randall beat three opponents to hop out of danger. Then, sud- including the European champion, Johann Laats of Belgium. was a more difficult opponent.



The Hall of Fame.

Who is the greatest footballer of all time? Now you can help us choose. Because England, the home of the world's greatest sport, is about to become the permanent venue for the International Football Hall Of Fame, backed by the Independent and the Professional Footballers' Association. And we need you to decide which of the game's heroes should be first to be inducted.

Over the next few weeks with your help, we will pick the best 25 of all time to be inaugurated in November in the official Hall Of Fame. To qualify, your pick must have played for his country and have retired for three years.

do is nominate up to four players for election to the Hall Of Fame. Simply follow the instructions on the right. Internet: You can also cast your vote on

So get voting now. What we need you to

the Internet at www.sporting-life.com. This is how it all works. A player of any nationality can be elected.

He must have been retired for three years and have gained a full cap. Anyone can make up to four nominations.

A nomination must be sent to the International Football Hall Of Fame on an Official Voting Form, by telephone to a reg.

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Official Voting Form, by telephone to a registered number, or via the Internet.

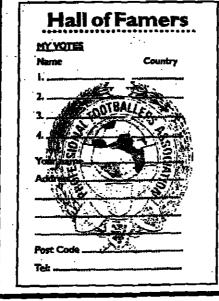
• Voting ends on Sunday November 9, 1997. The five players with most nominations will automatically be elected.

• A Selection Committee made up of seven retired players from different countries, with a chairman from the PFA, will draw up a short list of 60 players from those who receive most votes. This list is given to a panel of football journalists, chaired by the Mirror's Harry Harris. Each will choose a top 20. The 20 players who receive most votes will be elected.

Pick your greatest team ever see Monday's Independent for details.

will be elected.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS make sure you use it!



# Carlos Alberto Luigi Allemandi Manuel Amoros Jipeny Amilieid Book Unitary Arminolo Klaue Augusticaler Kevir Beattle Franz Beckenbaner Paul Breitner Terry Butchet Penger Byrne America Cabrini Carmacho Jack Charlton Commento Jack Chertion Hector Chempitaz George Cohen Stan Culls Gelente Pacchetti Chempy General Claudio Bertile Gris Gents Alan Hensen Grid Happed Grayn Hughes Norman Henter Jenior Ruud Krol Gobby Moore Morten Oben Doniel Pessarella All Ramsay Jess Jeniy Sarley Jess Jeniy Sarley Jeniy Stefile Jeniy Sarley Jeniy Sar

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When selecting your play- to four players. If you registered against your the table below. If you exers for the International wish you may select only name. Hall of Fame, you have one, but FOUR is the VOTE NOW on: 0930 the chance to make maximum. Select up to 565 996 FOUR votes and four four players, noting down If the player or players ister your vote on this votes ONLY. Remember their code numbers and

your votes count, as the then call 0930 565 996. top five players overall First of all, you will be vote for them by using the public of Ireland number from all the votes received asked to carry out a quick form below and sending it is 1550 123 302 (Tone will automatically go into test to determine what to: The Independent, Hall phones only). type of phone you have. of Fame, PO Box 6927, In the table below, we You will then be directed London E3 3NZ. Postal Calls should last no more have listed 250 players to enter your chosen play- entries must be received than two mins. 50p per who could all be in con- er codes. At the end of the by November 8.

perience problems voting, call our helpline: 0990 800 283. You cannot regyou wish to vote for are line. Vote lines close on not listed below, you can November 9, 1997. Re-

minute at all times tention. To make your se- call, you will be asked to Please note, you should Calls from Republic of lection, all you have to do leave your name and ad- use the form only if your Ireland cost 58p per

### SPORTING DIGEST

Baseball AMERICAN LEAGUE Play-offs: Clausiant 5 Bel-functo 4 (Best-of-seven series dec 1-1).

Darren Maddy, Leicestershire's young opening betsmen, has signed a new four-year contract with the Grace Road side.

Chris Smith, the former England Test batsman, is cultting as chief execu-tive of the Western Australian Crickociation. He starts a new career

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (San Sebastian) Justice men (121.5 km/75.5 mileat): 1 C Charons (t) 2tr Sentin 49sec; 2 M Both (Swit): 3 M Saltimets (Est) all same time. Justice Williams (Scholler and race: 1 M van Mots (Auch) the Charm Resec; 2 N Bresendi (Swit): 3 S Anderston (Swit) all same time.

Football

The Swiss champions, Sion, lost their appeal yesterday to Uers, European footballs governing body, and will have to replay their Uers Cup to against Spartak Moscow on Wednesday, Uers ordered the first-round second-leg match on 30 September, which ended 2-2 with Spartak advencing 3-2 on apprendix, to be rewiscil shoed 2-2 with sparrak advancing 3-2 on apprepate, to be re-played after upholding a Son protest that the goals were too small. Son had asked for a 3-0 forfelt in their favour. The Portsmouth tho, Saramy Igoe. Aaron Fabaven and Russell Penett, tave all signed new contracts which will keep them at Fration Park until 2001. Asign Villa have been allocated 1000 tickets for their Ueta Cup second round first leg with Athletic Bibao in Spain on 21 October.

ERROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP FOUR 2 Latvia (2)
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noncheller standium. Listopston, Listvie s des Kollinko-sent off, 29) GROUP SIX (Politorial): Czach Republic 2 Sto-CHARR THES. Group Two (Thillial): Georgie 5

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MATIONALDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Postpossed exacts: Todays Caudity Southerpe (Free of the Control of the C

American Duffy Waldorf yesterday fired a spectacular bogsy-free 63 to take a one-stable lead over Brad Bhart siter to the first round of the Michelob bournament in Willemsburg. Virginia. Waldorf, who has had one victory since joining the PGA tour in 1965, had eight birdies, including six over his final eight holes.

Stokes Lisa Hackney has become the eighth overseas player in 10 years to win the US LPGA Tour's Rookle of the Year award. Hackney, whose seven top-10 finishes this season included a tie for second at the Safeway LPGA Golf Championship, finished the

LPGA GOS CASTIPIONISTS, INTERFECT THE SESSION WITH 800 POINTS.

MICHELOS CHAMPIONISTS (Williamsburg, Virginin) Leading Sinst-round source (US unteres stated): 53 D Weskfort; 64 B Bryant; 65 G Kraft; 65 K Tripint, 5 Gump, 1 Centerús, 8 Guigey; 57 N Lancaster, F Coupies, D Durel, 7 Armour, C Strange, G Halberg, M Christie, B Highes (Aus). Selected: 74 S Lyle (GS). T Arrison, C. Strange, G. Heithert, M. Christie, T. Arrison, C. Strange, G. Heithert, M. Christie, T. Arrison, C. Strange, G. Heighes (Aug.). Selectack: 74 S. Lyke (GB), OPEN MOVOTEL. PERRITER PARRS TOUR-NAMENT (Bordesur, Fr) Leading Second-round (boursomes) (GB) de 71. 136 P Hedround of J. Herror (SD) de 71. 136 P Hedrothom and P. Soland (Swe) 68 70. 137 P Curry and A Sharborne 55 72. 138 D Howell and S. Cage 66 72. 1 Garricia and M. Ourrason (Sp) 64 X, A Hunter and G. Dr. 85 73. 139 M Farry (Fr) and M. Noe 65 73. J. Caseys and M. Beastronney (Fr) 64 75. J. Van de Vette (Fr) and B. Lane 65 X, A Fordstand and M. Joseys 19 M Farry (Fr) and M. Noe 65 73. J. Caseys and M. Beastronney (Fr) 64 75. J. Van de Vette (Fr) and B. Lane 65 X, A Fordstand and M. Joseys 19 M Farry (Fr) and 19 J. Descaped 65 73. 140 A 75. J. Van de Vette (Fr) and R. Durmstand 65 X, A Fordstand and M. Joseys (Fr) 873. J. Lones and 6 Sottionley 67 73. J. Caseys (Fr) 67 73. J. Care 19 Price 65 74. J. Pyriten and D. Carles (Fr) 69 73. J. Lones and 6 Sottionley 67 73. J. Care of 77 5. M Turnicall and J. Hobson 65 77. R Lee and M. Devis 65 77.
WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (Westeroth). Second mand: E. Es (SA) bt 1 Woosnam; (CB) 7 and 6; N. Price (Zim) bt F Nobio (NZ) 6 and 5 (Price meets Es in the semi-

ice hockey NHL: Buttato 5 Washington 2; Philadelphia 3 Physburgh 1; Tumpa Bay 4 Chicago 1; St Louis 3 Los Argeles 2 (od; Calgary 1 NY Flumpars 1 (od; Colorado 3 San Jose 2; Vancouser 2 Tourn-to 2 (od;

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Paris); Ment
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Third round: Randell bt S Domensch (So) lon Stig Second round: F Gorzalez (So) bt
R Birch (GS) decision. Women's Stig Second round: K Howey (GS) bt A Agoune (Cern)
yulo; Third round: Howey bt E Boach (Neth)
spon; Fourth round: Howey bt S Buckton (SA)
ippon.

Motorcycling John Kocinski, the world Superbike chempton, grabbed provisional pole position for tomorrow's final round of the series in the opening qualifying-session in Sentul, indonests.

Olympic Games China's sports minister, Wu Shaozu, yesterday announced that Pelding is not seriously considering bloding for the 2008 Olympics, after its last bid, for the summer games in 2000, was rejected for "non-sports factors".

Motor racing Ukyo Katayama yesierday announced that he is retiring from Formula One racing at the end of this season. Rugby League SUPER LEAGUE World club challenge

Rugby Union

Liam Bothem will make his Cerdiff de-but in next Tuesday's friendly against Caerphilly, Bothem has just started a one-month trief with the Welsh club. one-moral transactions with the West calc. Deve Egerton, the former Bath and England No 8, has been appointed coach of the England Students and South-West Divisional Under-21's. He will be assisted with the divisional side by Bath's former England tull-back John Callard.

John Calaro.

Al Cherron, the Canadian International, will make his first appearance of the season for Moseley in today's Alled Dunbar Premiership Two match against Sedford. Simon McCracken, the 27-year-old Ebbw Vale ful-back, has broken a leg for the second time in two years. Mc-Cracken, who was a Wales youth cap against Canada in 1989, played for-Blackwood and Newport before join-ing Ebbw Vale last season.

Snooker

Stephen Hendry collected the play-er of the year sward, for the seventh time in eight years, at the annual World Professional Billiands and Snooker As-sociation funch in London yesterday.

Cradley Heathens are to re-form for a match against Wolves on 20 Octo-ber at Monmore Green.

Swimming
The Aditivation Matthisw Durin yester-day smashed the Commonwealth 200 metres individual medicy record at the Australian Championships in Brisbane, winning by almost three seconds.

Durn's time stripped (14sec from the record of Canadals Curtis Myden, whose 2min 01/3sec was set at last year's Atlanta Olympics.

Sam Smith, the British No 1 from Essaw, and Karen Cross, of Evatur, are this only two home players who have received direct entry into the LTA Women's Challenger tournament in Scarrampton next week. The event will be staged at the Hampshire Tentis and Health Club from 15-19 October.

COMBERT (US) 36 65 63
PEDERSTADT WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Ser) Quarter-finate: 1 Spries (Rom) by A Sanche-Visero (Sp) 7-56-1; M High (Sett) by B Malore, (But) 6-2 63; A Coscar (SA) bi P Schryder (Sett) 6-2 7-5.
CA TROPHY MEN'S TOURNAMENT (Vine-m) Quarter-finate Therman (CS) bit K Kinera (Schid 64-6-1; G Ivanisovic (Croe) bit B Ulfreach (Cz Rep) 7-6-3-6-63.
HERREKEN OPEN MEN'S TOURNAMENT Street (Cz Rep) 7-6-6-1; M Gustasson (Sett) bit J Courier (LT) 6-7-6-6-1; M Gustasson (Sett) bit J Courier (LT) 6-7-6-6-2; M Gustasson (Sett) bit J Courier (LT) 6-7-6-6-6-2.

### is select your choice of up dress. Your votes will be selections are not listed in minute include VAT

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## It wasn't Sir Hirem who spent half-a-million lire in Rome's Hot Hands Massage Club



THE **GAFFER TAPES** 

joying the lurid sights and his cook. beery sounds of Englishmen abroad,

England's World Cup campaign and assess some poten-Hirem Firem may need some personal terms for the Italians I've lined up. One of them wants to stay at Buckingham hunting and the other is de- our first win last week and are good news and some bad news. chance, Having put out and col- pass or shoots wide he stops the

I had hoped to get Demetrio Albertini and Paolo But that's enough of events Maldini after Milan's poor at the press hotel. I'm here, start to the season, but they rewith the chairman, to help fused to budge for anyone except Rund. It was a blow at first but, to be honest. I think tial signings. Both prospects they're vastly overrated. I'm look good to me though Sir sure the lads I've sorted out, Cosi Fan Tutti and Dolce Vita, persuading when it comes to will be a sensation when we unveil them at the Old Cornfield.

They'll need to be as the chairman's not happy with me. Palace while he goes house- It's not the football, we gained

the Eternal city is already en- his favourite restaurant to be I told him, I'm now the lead- credit card, the bad news was ing contender for the October Fd used it. The money I spent

> The problem is over an incident on our first night in Rome and it could have reper- parently Mrs Firem deals with cussions for a while. We'd gone out for a meal and, unfortunately, picked up one another's credit cards by mistake after a half-a-million lire in the Hot paying the bill. Had we gone to bed straight after it wouldn't have been a problem but I told him I'd like to go for a stroll by the Tiber first.

Next morning at breakfast I had to tell him I had some tell you Glenn's left nothing to

LOTTO

manager of the month award. isn't a problem, he'll dock it off complement for the pre-match my wages, the difficulty surrounds where I spent it. Apthe bills and now Sir Hirem's going to have to explain that it wasn't him that ran up a bill of

> Hands Massage Club. Of course, we didn't let a lit- drink Tetley's anymore. tle thing like that distract us from helping the cause. We've both been heavily involved with . England's preparation and I can

looked after the practice balls warm-up. Sir Hirem has made sure the lads won't lack for that bringing out plenty of tea-bags. He even went to the effort of having some PG Tips sent out after Glenn told him Tony Adams and Paul Merson don't

It's been instructive watching Glenn's training sessions. He's very much a player's manager. Every time someone misses a tackle, makes a bad

Bon jorno from Roma where manding we sign the chef from now only five points adrift. As The good news was I had his lected all the cones myself and play and calls everyone into a internal injuries he suffered last circle. He then holds a discus-I can tell you we will have a full sion group aimed at helping the bratory jump over the corner unfortunate player to accept his mistake and come to terms with it. For really bad cases, like vital half-time lift either by when Gazza was nutmegged by opening a supermarket, but David Batty, he sits the player

> It's all come a long way from the days when the worst trainlady's knickers outside their

one-to-one basis.

trousers in the pub afterwards. good news from home with Ego Forceps Ingly Terra. Massive recuperating well from the operation on the horrible

week. I'd told him that celeflag was not a good idea.

Ivor Niegle's also getting better after cutting his hand Shaun Prone has pulled andown and counsels him on a other muscle climbing off the treatment table.

Have to go as Glenn and I are off to the Vatican for a er had to wear a pair of the tea quick good-luck prayer. I know we beat Poland but I'm sure the Pope won't hold that against us. Meanwhile, there's been As they don't say in Roma,

> Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

# You've never been a proper manager until you've been sacked

Judging by the events of the past fortnight you could use the old joke about London buses to describe managers getting the sack: there hadn't been one for had been fired by Birmingham ages, but now several have in 1996 said: "Kirstine's out, come along at once.

Just when it seemed conceivable that chairmen had de- ment." cided to invest that precious days Micky Adams, Brian Horof Kerry Dixon and Mervyn Day and joined this season's sack race.

back in monagement, filling Molby's sizeable hot seat at Swansea City before it had time to grow cold. So, early October, and the managerial merry-go-round is already in full

But it is encouraging to remember that by this time last year twice as many managers had been handed their P45s, and they included some big fish. namely Bruce Rioch at Arsenal and Howard Wilkinson at Leeds

So far this season, the Premiership managerial roll call remains intact, although some managers appear to be on decidedly shaky ground. Most bookies are no longer taking bets on the odds-on favourite for the chop, but the fact that Ladbrokes are quoting Spurs at 250-1 for the Premiership tells its own story. There is a certain former Spurs manager up at Hillsborough who must be looking over his shoulder, too.

Of course, should Gerry Francis decide (or Alan Sugar decide for him) that tending his pigeons is preferable to trying to salvage Spurs' season, the fans' choice as his successor would not be available, as he is gainfully employed elsewhere managing England.

Most managers accept that being sacked is part of the job. Wilkinson maintains that "there are only two kinds of managers: those who've been sacked, and those who will be sacked", while Brian Horton, who was booted out of Huddersfield on Monday, claims that "you've never really been a manager until you've been sacked". By that token Horton is well and truly a manager, having previously been given a golden handshake by Manchester City.

ther ahead in the sack race than most. The message on Barry Fry's answerphone after he and I'm down the Job Centre as usual looking for employ-

Being the ebullient characcommodity called faith in their ter he is, Fry always seems to managers, in the space of 13 bounce back. Others - like Danny Bergara, who got an exton and Jan Molby went the way ceedingly raw deal when he was sacked by Stockport in 1995 find it harder to recover from an event that caps what is al-Of course. Adams is already ready a highly stressful job.



**OLIVIA** BLAIR

ON THE **PROSPECTS** AFTER FOOTBALL

Even Alex Ferguson admitted that if he had known 10 years ago what the Manchester United job entailed, he would not have taken it.

Yet managers have nothing to help them deal with the stresses of a job which John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers' Association, claims is "no longer sustainable in its current form: as all things to all people".

With this in mind the LMA, the Football Association and the Professional Footballers' Association, with input from the academics at Loughborough University, are proposing a

Some, like Horton, are fur-number of courses aimed at preparing managers for modern management more thoroughly by teaching them time and people management, and crucially - PR skills. The idea, says Barnwell, is to "redefine the manager's role so that, among other things, he stays in the job longer and has a better

Of course, football being the insular profession it is, there are limited options open to those who are out of work, permanently or otherwise. Few try their hand at anything other than improving their golf handicaps, fishing, selling insurance, running sports shops or pubs, writing revealing (or not-so-revealing) autobiographies or even, in George Graham's case, tending their roses.

And while there is quite a cottage industry developing among managers who become overnight experts in punditry, few are likely to branch out quite as bravely as Bergara is planning to do.

The Uruguayan describes himself as having "fallen out of love with football" after his Stockport débacle, so he is taking a major step sideways and hoping to set up shop as a freelance photojournalist after completing a course in November. However, his subject will - of course - be football. "It's what I know," he says, "and I can ask leading questions because I have the leading answers; after all, I've been in the game 40 years."

Bergara's example is a unique one. The LMA more The fourth and final South usually helps jobless managers find something "to keep the rust off", as Barnwell puts it. Most tend to end up in associated roles as chief scouts or youth development officers, which Keith Burkinshaw - who to all intents and purposes jumped before he was pushed out at Spurs in 1984 and is now director of football at Aberdeen - politely describes as "pottering about in something less

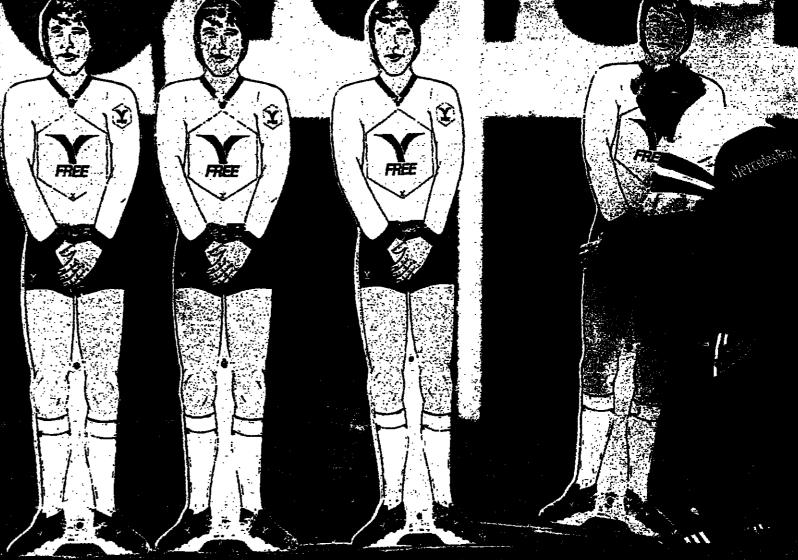
Which is surely what Graeme Souness is now doing at Torino. Sacked - sorry, moved sideways - after four months as manager, Souncss has apparently taken up the role year war late in the last century. of, er, strategic adviser to the Serie B club. Your guess is as good as mine.

lines up some dummies prior to

Germany need just a draw against Nowotny, Sven Kmetsch and the Albanians, Group Nine's bottom team, to win the section and qualify for France. The European champions will be without Jürgen Klinsmann, Matthias Sammer, Ulf Kirsten, Lars Ricken, Christian Wörns, Jens

maybe Jörg Heinrich, so Vogts side may well be experimental. "We need just one point but, despite all our injury problems, I expect a clear victory," he said yesterday. "Anything less would not satisfy me."

Albania's coach, Astrit Hafizi, said: "It will be a very difficult match but we will do our best. We have gone through a time full of difficulties and problems which I hope will never happen again," he added in reference to the recent turmoil in his country.



free-kick practice during training in Hanover this week. After the injuries that have afflicted his squad, Vogts might have to field some of them against Albania

### Witch doctors brandish the knives, skulls and crucifixes

### Chile v Peru

American place at next year's World Cup finals could be decided tomorrow. If Peru win in Chile, the Peruvians will confirm their ticket for France and eliminate the Chileans from contention.

Peru are fourth in the standings, behind Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay, who have all already qualified, and three points above Chile.

The build-up to tomorrow's game in Santiago has been bizarre, to say the least. Little love has been lost between the two Pacific nations since Chile annexed two nitrate-rich Peruvian provinces after a four-Animosity still exists, and has been magnified by this match. In Lima, the Peruvian cap-

ital, witch doctors have been doing their best to help their team's cause. Dancing, chanting and brandishing a bizarre collection of knives, skulls and crucifixes, they cast a series spells on Thursday intended to guarantee victory for Peru.

The so-called "Shaman of the Andes". Juan Osco, led six fellow medicine men in rituals intended to surround the Peruvian players with positive energy and bring bad fortune down on their rivals. "Long live Peru," shouted the cloaked witch-doctors as they spat alcohol over team photos, raised deer's feet to ensure swiftfootedness and held the claws of a condor bird to guarantee

"Let them have cramp! Let them remain blind night and day," they also chanted, stab-



METCALF

RUPERT

bing knives at a Chilean team shirt hung upside down during the ceremony in a Lima square. Back in Santiago, the Chil-

can coach was not slow to use

some provocative words, "Our

country is more educated than

yours," Nelson Acosta told Peruvian journalists. The Chilean president, Ed-

uardo Frei, has tried to play peacemaker. "This is a football match, it is a sport and it does not make sense to treat it as guerrilla warfare between two brother nations. We have to keep a sense of proportion," he pleaded - probably in vain.

### Paraguay

The Paraguayans have already qualified for France, and their goalkeeper, José Luis Chilavert, looks certain to be one of the characters of the tournament.

Famous for scoring goals from penalties and free-kicks, he was banned for four World Cup qualifiers this year after punching Colombia's Faustino Asprilla. Last year he got a three-month suspended jail

sentence for hitting a stadium steward while playing for his Argentinian club, Velez Sarsfield. Now he has made his mark in the political arena.

Chilavert was approached in a Buenos Aires hotel last month by Liño Oviedo, a former general and now a Paraguayan presidential candidate. Oviedo wanted to pay his respects - and doubtless secure a valuable photo opportunity.

"I told him I couldn't embrace him," Chilavert said, "because I think he put Paraguayan democracy in danger. When Oviedo's aides heard what I said they started to insult me. Then they tried to attack me and I defended myself."

The ensuing brawl made headlines in Argentina and Paraguay - but probably not the sort that Oviedo wanted.

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new nuts and you'll happily kiss all Oriental Dipped.

One tongue-tingling taste of our Fearuts Indian Relish, or our spicy

Get reacquainted with our Dry Roast or Honey Roast Peanitts.

By rights, you'll soon be their praises from the rooftops: Albeit, an octave 📅 🖸 🗚 🖽

# 23/FOOTBALL ماذا من ألاصل

### **SIDELINES**

# Valiant old heroes of the Potteries

An old rivalry will be played out in a new setting when Stoke City meet Port Vale in the Britannia Stadium tomorrow - but will the Potters'



famous president be so sad if the derby honours finish even? Sir Stanley Mannews, who had two legendary spells with Stoke, makes no secret of his early devotion to their rivals. After retiring at 50, Sir Stan managed Vale and reprised his wing wizardry for them in friendlies.

Over 100 players have appeared for both clubs. When Billy Rowley, later England's goalkeeper, moved from Vale to Stoke 101 years ago, the neighbours' court-room wrangle over his contract set the tone for relations.

Several Stoke stalwarts have managed Vale: Jackie Mudie, Alan Bloor and Freddie Steele, who led them to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1954. Mark Chamberlain represented England soon after leaving the Valiants for the Victoria Ground aged 20 in 1982, whereas Vale's ex-Stoke men, like Jimmy Greenhoff, Alan Dodd and Eric Skeels, have tended to be at the veteran stage.

Yet two Burslem heroes, Roy Sproson and Robbie Earle, were snapped up as teenagers on being spurned by Stoke. Meanwhile, Mike Pejic will coach the home side tomorrow - the former Stoke full-back won damages for unfair dismissal by Vale. In terms of footballing compatibility, it often seems the opposite ends of the Six Towns remain worlds

Ten things that Paul Gascoigne might be missing in Glasgow today



dance and literature that made Glasgow the European City of Culture

2 Graceful architecture by Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The coliseum's hardly subtle, is it?

hibition about Caesar's mistress, but a Glasgow West End nightclub 8 Neeps, tatties, fish supdent nurses.

4 Barras market. Not used to make. quite Armani, Versace 9 Im Bru. and Gucci, but plenty of 5 Political efficiency -

 $z_{i,j} \in \{z_i\} \cap \mathcal{T}$ 

,

I The art, music, theatre, the Italian government makes Glasgow City Council look organised. 6 The renowned Nardini family, purveyors of the finest icercream. (Not to mention Daniela Nardîni. 7 Touches gestures -

3 Cleopatra's. Not an ex- Eternal City romance has nothing to match a Glasgow kiss.

which is popular with stu- pers, Scotch pies and bridies - just like mamma

10 Marvelling at the hot fashions dirt cheap. colourful but impenetrable language.

#### NAME OF THE GAME No 4: LEYTON ORIENT

Few clubs have had as many name changes as the Os who, since their formation in 1881, have been called Glyn Cricket and Football Club, Eagle FC, Clapton Orient, Orient and Leyton Orient. The "Orient" part of the name dates back to 1888, when many of the players worked for the Orient Shipping Line. The club is thought to have been formed by members of Homerton Theological College who wanted to play cricket - when their first cricket season finished they stayed together in the winter to play football





The last time England qual-

ified for the World Cup fi-

nals was in 1989, with the

circumstances remarkably

similar to today's. Eight

years ago to the day, Bobby

Robson's team went to

Chorzow needing a draw

against Poland. The mission

was duly accomplished, Pe-

ter Shilton's outstanding dis-

play earning a goalless draw.

that day, only Stuart Pearce

is still in contention for an

England place. Des Walker

only others still appearing

regularly in the Premiership,

although Gary Stevens (Tran-

mere), Chris Waddle (Burn-

ley) and David Rocastle

(Chelsea) are all still playing.

Of the team that played

On 13 October 1965, Scotland met Poland at Hampden Park in a crucial qualifying match for the 1966 World Cup finals. The Scots - including Billy Bremner. Denis Law and their youngest international debutant, the 18-year-old Willie Johnston, took the lead after 14 minutes. The Poles, however, scored twice in the last five minutes.

"Stunned into silence, sickened by defeat, 107,000 Scots suddenly poured boos down on to their beaten and Peter Beardsley are the team from the towering terraces," read the next day's paper. The unexpected defeat effectively left them unable to qualify. Their last two matches, a win and a loss against Italy, confirmed this.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

TRANSFERS: Chris Maradan (mid-fielder) Stockport to Birmingtan (\$20000); Paul Bracewell (mid-tielder) Sunderland to Fulham 67-5003; Christer Warren (forward) Scuttempton to Bournamouth (unda-closed tee); Micky Mohan (defend-er) Bradford City to Wycombe (undactosed tee); Michael Rodos-thenous (forward) West Bromwich to Carrhridge Und (undactosed tee); Ja-son Peake (defender) Brighton to Bury (free); Jason White (forward) Northampton to Rotherham (free).

LOANS/TRIALS: Vieler Gleteron (mid-risider) Assenal to Brighton; Brien Bor-rows (detender) Coventry to Swindon; Devict Rocestie (midfielder) Cristes to Hull City, Paul Stenpeon (midfielder) Der-by to Wolves; Mark Devilin (midfielder) Sible to Eleter; Stene France; Groverd; Swindon to Cambridge Utd; Gury Branaton (utifix) Lelcoster to Ruchden. & Diamonds; Dieters Beleradorier (de-fender) Registers. (it) to Lelcoster (triel); Etranscon (unary) Lendessen to Husedon 8. Diemonds; Dietrae Beieradorfer (de-fender) Regolans (1) to Lelcaster (tred); Arnold Wedl (midhelder) Porto to Ho-anian (trial); Ivar Anglandesson (de-tender) Velut Raylsjavk (ice) to Ipsakch (prai).

Contributors: Ptill Straw, Nick Harris, Paul Neuman, Readers' contributions inelcome. Send to Sicialines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada species. Square, Canary Whart, London E14 50L. E-mail: sport@independent.co.uk.

# Simpson joins Molineux men

Wolverhampton Wanderers Todd has denied reports that winger Paul Simpson on Ioan and the Molineux manager, Mark McGhee, is hoping to secure a permanent deal.

Simpson, 31, who is valued at around £75,000, will go straight into the squad for tomorrow's West Midlands derby with Birmingham City at St Andrew's

The former Manchester City and Oxford United player has been out of the first-team picture at Pride Park this season, but has impressed McGhee in the reserves.

"They don't want a lot of money for him and what I said to the boy is that I don't want him here if all he is going to do is clutter up the place by not being in the team," the Wolves manager said. "But, if he comes and proves he can make a contribution this season, then he can stay and he is up for the challenge. He wants to play first-team football."

The Welsh international defender Adrian Williams has returned to Molineux after being pulled out of the World Cup qualifier with Belgium because

of an Achilles injury. The Bolton manager Colin

have signed the Derby County the midfielder, Jamie Pollock, has asked to go on the transfer list. "The situation is that Jamie has been doing a job for the team and has been asked to play out of position," Todd said. "I have been playing him wide on the right, whereas his favourite position is in central midfield, where I have not been able to

> accommodate him so far. "The player is disappointed and unhappy, but we've talked it through and I've agreed that, if an offer comes along that is right for the club and the player, then we will listen to it."

> Pollock, 23, a former England Under-21 international, joined Bolton for £1m just under a year ago from the Spanish outfit Osasuna, after first making his name with Middlesbrough. The Manchester City man-

> ager Frank Clarke is facing a selection crisis after hearing that Uwe Rösler has been ruled out of action for six weeks. Clarke may be forced to buy a replacement for the German forward, who damaged ankle ligaments in a friendly with an Italian select XI this week.

The transfer-listed Rösler will not be available again

until late November, which will also put an end to his chance of a move to Everton.

Rösler's lay-off leaves City short of bodies. There are fears for Paul Dickov, who went to hospital for a scan on his knee yesterday after picking up an iniury in the same game.

Dickov could need a minor operation, and that would leave City with just their record signing Lee Bradbury in attack as they try to escape the bottom half of the First Division.

The West Bromwich Albion striker Paul Peschisolido has rejected an improved contract with the Hawthorns club. He had said earlier in the week that he was "very close" to signing a two-year extension to his current deal, which has 18 months to run. Then talks broke down, with the Canadian international and Albion unable to reach agreement. The 26-year-old insisted: "I won't be signing a new deal."

Peschisolido, who dropped his agent Eric Hall from the talks after he was involved in a row with Albion's chief executive, John Wile, said: "I met with chairman Tony Hale but we could not reach agreement."



### Young Scots humbled by 10-man Latvia

Simon Buckland reports from Livingston Scotland Under-21 ...... Latvia Under-21 ...

A head butt by the Latvian goalkeeper, Alexander Kolinko, briefly sparked Scotland's Under-21 side into life - but the visitors were still too strong even with 10 men in a European Under-21 Championship qualifier of high drama at Almondvale stadium yesterday.

It was a tale of two keepers, with Queen of the South's 19year-old David Mathieson enduring a painful afternoon, sharing at least some blame for each of Latvia's four goals.

Michael Craig, the nephew of Scotland's coach, Tommy, was the victim of Kolinko's moment of madness which reduced the visitors to 10 men when leading 2-0. Craig Jnr was forced off injured in the incident and, as it occurred in the area, the referee, Milan Mitrovic, awarded a penalty, which

was converted by Dundee's Iain Anderson after 32 minutes. Then Craig's replacement, David Graham of Rangers, levelled the score after 44 minutes with a close-range effort.

That cancelled out a Latvian lead gained with early strikes by Nikolai Polakov after nine minutes and Igor Slesarchuk after 21 minutes - each aided by some uncertain keeping from However, while Scotland

were able to exploit their extra man initially, further lapses in

concentration from Mathieson led to second-half goals from Erik Pelcis after 54 minutes and Vsevolod Lidak, three minutes later, which secured victory for the Latvians.

Neither side were in contention for the knock-out stages of the Under-21 Championship. This defeat was the Scots' seventh defeat of a dismal campaign, which has seen only seven points gained from 10

"It is a learning process for these lads," Craig Sur said. "I

think they now recognise that mistakes get punished at this level, as we were against a strong physical side today."

SCOTLAND UNDER-21: Highlisson Rusen of the South): McEsson (Raith Rovers), Necessith (Reith Rovers), Necessith (Reith): McEsson (Raith Rovers), McCluskey (St. Johnstone), Horn (Hearts), Craig (Aberdeen), Buchan (Aberdeen) Buchan (Aberdeen) Buchan (Aberdeen) Buchan (Aberdeen) Buchan (Aberdeen) Buchan (Rainceast Land)

### George Farm's message would probably have been: 'Get lost, don't bother me again'

I play football at every opportunity nowadays, so it is difficult to recall a time in my life when I would rather watch than play, but for a time in my teens that was indeed the case. I played for the school team on Saturday mornings and would rather go to Bloomfield Road to watch Blackpool in the afternoon than turn out again for Blackpool Boys Club with sopping wet boots.

I had been watching the Pool since I was seven, round about the time they won the FA Cup in the famous "Matthews Final" of 1953. Sadly, I did not see their moment of triumph. Watching the match on television at a friend's house, we decided it was a lost cause at 3-1 down to Bolton and went out to play on our bikes oblivious to the great comeback culminating in Bill Perry's last-minute winner.

However, I was a regular three years later when Blackpool finished second in the League to Manchester United. I used to spend hours waiting for autographs outside the ground. Day after day in the school holidays the players would sign a different photograph in my scrap-

The most clusive players were the great Stan Matthews George Farm. I am sure Stan had a secret exit from Bloomfield Road, because I only ever caught him once or twice. He proved as difficult was for the hapless full-backs es." who had to mark him for 90 minutes.

George Farm was not quite so clusive, in fact, but he spent hours on his pedicure after training and was a terrible grouch when he eventually appeared at the players' entrance, glowering at the two or three kids still there while their lunch was going cold on mum's kitchen table.

"Dichn't I give it to you yesterday?" he would growl, as I tentatively shoved an action picture under his nose. Then

FAN'S EYE VIEW





BY GRAHAM KELLY

pen to carefully inscribe 'Geo" Farm.

You had to be particularly careful about which photograph to select for his antograph. It would have been a very reckless child who asked Farm to sign anything from the 1953 Cup final, when he let in a couple of soft

My favourite signature of all - apart, that is, from the greats such as Pele, Di Stefano and Poskas obtained in excruciatingly embarrassing fashion in much later years - was an unlikely one. and the Scottish goalkeeper Eddie Clamp, the Wolves and England wing-half, prefixed his name "Yours in sport". I thought this was really cool. Much better than having to beg, like some for antograph hunters as he kids: "Please put best wish-

I often wondered what George "Geo" Parm would have written if anyone ever dared ask for a special message. Probably "Get lost, don't bother me again."

George Farm was a perfectionist, always immaculately turned out, who was capped 10 times by Scotland despite employing a highly unusual technique to catch the ball, a nutcracker-type style with one hand above and one hand below the ball.

he pulled out his own fountain der in those pre-substitute of the Football Association

days and moved to striker to head a goal in a 6-2 win over hated local rivals Preston North End. I was sitting on the wall behind the goal. Happy days.

I followed Blackpool for many years. I thrilled at the electric skill of Tony Green before his career was prematurely ended by injury after his move to Newcastle.

Alan Buddick came the other way in 1966 - a beautiful player, but one for whom the word enigmatic was surely specially coined. I often ask Jim Armfield about him now, but Jim, who has always taken his game seriously, tends to clam up, distrustful I suspect of anyone who did not make the most of the sublime gifts he had been blessed

Barrie Martin, a full-back of upright style, played a costly and ill-judged passback on one occasion from just outside the penalty area near the players' tunnel. Dear old Ellis Tomlinson, our football master at school, termed that corner of the pitch "Martin's

Folly". I still watch Blackpool whenever duties allow. But since my move away from Lancashire to the Football Association nearly 10 years ago, I have never seen them

The season before last I stayed away after a hard-won draw at Peterborough in March. Pool were top in April, then dipped to finish

A first leg play-off semifinal at Bradford City was won 2-0. Promotion to Division One looked certain. For the second leg at

Bloomfield Road I followed Gary Lineker's famous advice about Wimbledon and "watched" the match on Teletext. Agonisingly 0-1 became 0-2. Nothing in life was surer than that 0-2 would flick over to 0-3 in the closing

lardyce lost his job.

It did, and big Sam Al-

He once injured a shoul- Graham Kelly is chief executive

### Swindon closing in on Forest at the top

Today's top First Division game will be looking to maintain sees Bury, promoted in May, their 100 per cent record at travelling to third-placed Swin- Craven Cottage in the Keegan don. The Wiltshire side can go within one point of Nottingham Forest at the top if they win.

Bury's fellow divisional newcomers, Stockport and Crewe (both currently just above midtable Bury) both play lower opposition, at home to Oxford United and away at Reading respectively.

Tomorrow is First Division derby day, with Birmingham hosting Wolverhampton Wanderers and Stoke City facing Port Vale in the Potteries encounter at the Victoria Ground.

In the Second Division, Northampton can go top of the table if they win away at Grimsby. The Cobblers, promoted in May, have lost just one League game this season, on the opening day. Elsewhere, Fulham

era when they meet Blackpool Fulham beat Oldham 3-1 last Saturday while Blackpool lost 2-1 to Millwall.

Oldham and Millwall themselves meet today at the New Den, with Oldham knowing they can leapfrog their opponents into the top six if they win, and Millwall knowing they can maintain their promotion challenge if they prevail themselves. In the Third Division, Micky

Adams makes a quick managerial comeback after leaving Fulham as he takes charge of struggling Swansea City, who sacked Jan Molby in midweek. Adams faces a difficult first game in charge, taking Swansea, fifth from bottom of the League, to Exeter, who are third in the division.

#### Major weekend fixtures and pools check

Today 3.0 unless stated

Nationwide League

First Division Reading v Crews 2 Stockport v Oxford Utd ...... 3 Swindon v Bury ......

Second Division

4 Burnley v Cartisle . 6 Fullharm y Blackpool .

7 Gillingham v Wycombe Grimsby v Northampto

~ Luton v Plymouth . 9 Milwell v Cichem . 11 Southend v Bristol City ...

Wateati v Wrextra

Third Division

t3 Chester v Brighton - Exement V Swansee ....

16 Leyton Orient v Rotherha 17 Lincotn v Torquey ...... 18 Mansfield v Cambridge ...

21 Rochdele v Derlington ..... 22 Strewebury v Barnet GM Vauxhall Conference

20 Peterborough v Coichester ....

23 Ferniporough v Morecambe ..... - Gateshead v Leek 24 Hayes v Stalybridge 25 Northwich v Hedner

26 Rushden v Hereford ... 27 Southport v Kiddem

Bell's Scottish Leagu Third Division Ross Co v Queen's Park (10)

World Cup Group One 28 Greece v Denmark (70) (at Olympic stadum, Athens) 29 Slovenia v Croatla (7D) ... (at Bezigrad stadium, Ljublja

World Cup Group Two 

World Cup Group Three 32 Finland v Hungary (50) ..... (at Olympia stadium, Helsinki) 33 Switzerland v Azerbaijan (70) (at Wankdorf stackum. Berne)

World Cup Group Four 34 Austria v Belarus (3.0) ...... (et Ernst Happel stadium, Vienne) 35 Scotland v Latvia (30) ... (at Celtic Perk, Glesgow) 36 Sweden v Estonia (30) ... (at Resunde stadium, Stock

World Cup Group Five 37 Cyprus v Luxembourg (5.0) . (at Makenon stackum, Nicosia) 38 Russia v Bulgaria (70) ...... Jat Luzhniki stadium, Moscow,

World Cup Group Six 40 Maita v Yugoslavia (70) (at Ta 'Oeli stacium, Valletta) 41 Spain v Faroe isles (70) ... (at El Molinon starilum, Grion

World Cup Group Seven 43 Netherlands v Turkey (70)

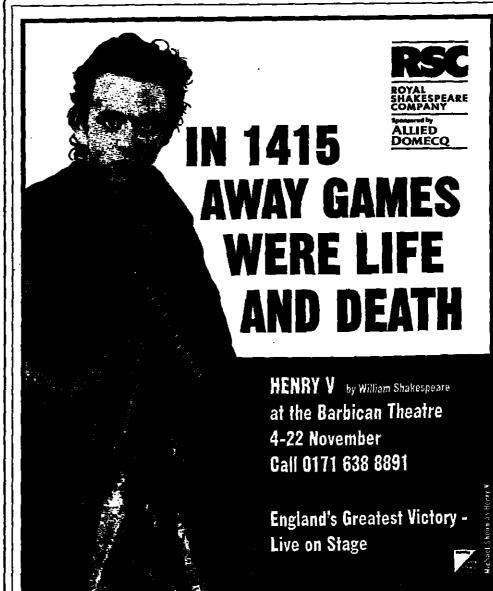
World Cup Group Eight 44 Iceland v Liechtenstein (3.0) ...... tet Laugardalsvölfur stedium,

(at Laugardals+Ollur stedium, Reykjanti) 45 Mecedonia v Lithuenia (30) ..... (at Gradski stedium, Skopje) 46 Rep of Ireland v Romania (30) ... (at Lansdowne Road, Dublin) World Cup Group Nine

48 Germany v Albania (5.30) ... (at Niedersachsenstadion, Her

49 Portugal v N Iraland (530) ... (at Estadio da Luz, Lisbon)

Nationwide League First Division Birmingham v Wolves (40) ....



# Seaman on a mission to prevent Zola repeating himself



Italy's Gianfranco Zola hits the winner past Ian Walker, the England goalkeeper, in the World Cup qualifying match at Wembley earlier this year

# Talisman with a talent for tormenting Englishmen

Do you man-mark him, isolate him or just kick him? Gianfranco Zola scored the goal that beat England at Wembley in February and is the man most likely to beat them

Guy Hodgson canvasses opinion on how you counter the diminutive Italian.

It seems a ridiculous assumption now, but one man and one match told Gianfranco Zola he would never prosper in the Premiership. Intriguingly, the instrument of the Italian's despair will be available to England in Rome tonight.

Zola did not play in the European Cup-Winners' Cup final in 1994. He was on the pitch for Parma that night in Copenhagen all right, but he did not figure, such was the suffocating effect of Tony Adams.

The uncompromising Arsenal captain bullied, marked, tackled and headed clear every time the ball went near Zola, leaving Parma, the holders, deprived of their play-maker and beaten. The bruising and unequal contest left its mark, in all senses of the word, on the Italian.

"It was a joke," Zola, 5ft 6in and 10st 4lb, said. "Adams did not even have to jump to win the ball. That's why I thought I'd be too small to play in England, that all defenders would be like that and that I'd have no chance. But I have grown in

more ways than one since then." His award as Footballer of the Year last May confirms newspapers this week provide further endorsement. Daily photographs of the Chelsea striker have appeared like "man most wanted" posters.

His Premiership opponents have quickly learned to appreciate the Italian. Alex Ferguson said after Zola had scored a delightful goal against Manchester United last spring: "He's better than I thought he was." It is something a lot of opponents have discovered since his late arrival in Serie A with lapoli at the age of 23.

Deft, strong, difficult to intimidate, but above all bursting with imagination, he joined forces with Diego Maradona to help Napoli win an Italian title and was anointed by the Argentine as his successor. For Parma, Chelsea and Italy since he has brought verve and dangerous unpredictability.

For his part Zola has greatly enjoyed his time in England, even going so far as to suggest yesterday that there would be a touch of regret if he did score tonight, "I am sorry I have to play against England," he said. "I am having a great season with Chelsea. I am enjoying myself so much in England that that's why I will feel a little sad. I am usually pleased to score many goals for Italy, but it will not

please me to score tomorrow.' So how do you stop him? Glenn Hoddle, the England coach has said he will not manmark the Italian fearing it will

distort the team's shape, which could be a smokescreen as Newcastle's sabre-toothed tackthat, and a look at Britain's ler David Batty was forged for the job. Certainly the conventional wisdom in the Premiership is to stick close to the 32-year-old Sardinian and pray.

> Leeds, Sunderland, Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest all assigned one man to nullify Zola last season and all were rewarded. "I was in two minds whether to man-mark him," Stuart Pearce, Forest's player-manager when they met Chelsea last January. said. "Then I spoke to Des Walker. He said Sheffield when they put Peter Atherton on him and that made my mind up. I did the same with Des Lyt-

How great, Pearce discovered first hand a month later at Wembley. The England defender rose but missed a header that allowed Zola an opportunity. Sol Campbell raced across the area to eradicate the danger but he arrived just in time to get a faint touch that turned the Italian's shot inside Ian Walker's near post. A half-chance to Zola, no

tle and it worked. He kept a

great player out of the game."

chance for England. "He can disappear and then pop up," England's Graeme Le Saux said of his Chelsea teammate this week. "If you're not aware you'll get caught. His movement is his big asset as he proved with his goal at Wembley. We have to be aware of that and anticipate what he is going to do. At least we know more about him now."



# Wembley absentee sets his focus on little feet

Dennis Wise, another Chelsea team-mate would go for the former option. "Even then he can still hurt you because he's class," he said. "He's frightening sometimes. He's got it all: control, touch, use of both feet. Put him one-on-one and he'll say "See you later" and go past you."

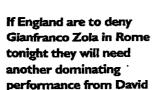
Hoddle tried to buy Zola when he was manager at Chelsea, deterred only by an £8m asking price that was cut almost in half by the time Ruud Gullit did get him to Stamford Bridge. The England coach needs no persuading of his talent but believes familiarity will diminish its threat.

quantity that was relatively unknown in February, whereas now they have met him in the Premiership. "Sure, we've got to respect Zola," Hoddle said. "Having said that, a lot of our players have played against him now and they recognise some of his moves. Perhaps now we can deal with him."

Hoddle has reinforced the education process with videos this week, pinpointing his runs. "The thing is to know when to go with him and when to let someone else pick him up."

Gerry Taggart, the Bolton and Northern Ireland central defender, said, "You have to be careful not leave gaps for others to run into. You need to concentrate all the time and," he paused for effect, "get stuck in".

That, you can safely leave to Adams, if fit, but the concentration will have to spread beyoud the England defender. Or else Zola will grow a little more.



lan Ridley found the England goalkeeper ready to go to work.

David Seaman is hoping that the week ends more successfully than it began. "He beat me 5-0." England's goalkeeper lamented after a fishing trip with Paul Gascoigne. Tonight the aim is the opposite; to keep that figure as slippery as any trout. Gianfranco Zola. from finding

It becomes increasingly difficult to second-guess the Englan coach, Glenn Hoddle. and predict accurately an England team these days but it is usually a pretty safe bet that Seaman's name will be the first on the list, literally and metaphorically.

As seen in the penalty saves of Euro 96, against Scotland and Spain - since when he has conceded only two goals in eight games under Hoddle - his air of calm reassurance is crucial to England. "If the young lads are getting nervous. I'll have a quiet word with them." he says. accepting that he is among the team's elder statesmen. His imposing presence seems also

a deterrent to strikers. It is with a little fellow that he and England are most concerned tonight, however.

Maldini

Milan

"You look at various strikers this time at least we have anjust to see if they do anything different. At set-pieces you can usually see, but sometimes it's hard to tell who's actually shooting when it's in the game. You are supposed to be watching the ball, you know.

"But I know Zola does pose quite a few problems, especially at free-kicks. He's crafty. He's got such tiny feet and can make the ball do a lot of things with hardly any backlift." Seaman recently reacquainted himself with it all at first hand, when Zola scored for Chelsea against Arsenal,

though the goal owed most to

Mark Hughes's teasing cross Seaman was absent with a cartilage injury when Zola's shot deflected off Sol Campbell last February at Wembley. fan Walker then the victim. "I was stuck in a traffic jam on the M25 listening on the radio coming back from the specialist," Seaman recalls, though he feels as vengeful as

any participant that night. There is nothing more we would like to do than beat them after what they did at Wemhley," he says. It will, he knows, be an intense experience. "I don't

know if you can enjoy it. Maybe afterwards when you get the right result. It's work and there is a lot of pressure but we know what's coming. what to expect." He is, after all, a veteran of '93 and Rotterdam, almost shuddering at the memory. "That was different. It was sudden death," he says. "If we do get beaten

RECENT HISTORY OF

other chance." Seaman himself does not

expect as physical a test as the other England players. It is different with goalkeepers because the ref watches and as soon as anyone touches us they give a free-kick. In other parts of the field I expect there will be a lot of man-for-man marking. Man-for-man wrestling, really."

What does concern him are the Olympic Stadium floodlights. "Lights make a massive difference to you. Even Highbury is a totally different place at night. Looktor a cross, you can lose the ball in the lights and I have done. A lot of keepers do.

"One problem at Arsenal was having six or seven lights so close together in the corners and I managed to get the club to change that. The best type for a keeper are the pylons. But I don't think the Italians are likely to start hitting high balls in there." He has not been successful in getting a training session under the Rome lights, but Hoddle did not seem too concerned. "Goalkeepers will make any

excuse," he said. Seaman was making none about recent errors, notably the goal at Highbury with which PAOK Salonika eliminated Arsenal from the Uefa Cup, which have led some to question his form, though he insists with the promising Austrian Alex Manninger pushing him at Highbury, and an in-form Dennis Bergkamp and

Ian Wright to practice against, he is sharp enough.

In fact, he believes, his opposite number, Angelo Peruzzi, who conceded three for Juventus against Manchester United last week, will come into the game with more concerns about form. "He looks small but he gets himself around," Seaman says. "I don't like letting in goals in. I don't know what type of guy he is but I wouldn't be happy.

"I'm used to criticism," he goes on, adding aptly and accurately. "I am there to be shot at." Though 34, last month, he does not believe he is yet at his peak. Ti would say no. There s still a lot to learn. Plus, I might get another contract

Ray Clemence, England's goalkeeping coach, chips in: "It's because David's mistakes are so rare that people pick them up. It's also easy to forget some of his less publicised contributions, like a great save against Barnsley last Saturday when it was 0-0."

England and Seaman will settle for as much tonight. "It's all about qualifying," he says. "It's all about focusing on not making a mistake."

Fir for for

Though Seaman has been looking relaxed, there has been no opportunity for his and Gazza's favourite relaxation in Italy. "Besides, if we did go fishing over here, we'd need about 20 policemen with us," he said. Instead, the concentration has been on attempting to ensure that Italy. sleep with the fishes.

### THE KEY CONFRONTATIONS; GLENN MOORE'S ANALYSIS OF WHERE THE MATCH WILL BE WON AND LOST

Cannavaro marked Shearer out of the game at Wem-

bley in an impressive international debut. He has

retained his place since and his pace is likely to see

lan ta sweeps. Wright knows his international career will Fabio

Arsenal finals which would be unfortunate after such an Parma

33, 28 impressive late international blossoming.

Wright be over if England fail to make the World Cup Cannavaro

him give the job of marking Wright while Costacur-



Tottenham Chelsea age: 23 Glenn Hoddle will not be man-mark. The key battle, with temperament as much a factor as ability. Both pairs have . A further chance to assess Beckham's

ing Zola but Campbell is likely to find movement. The experience of Tony pension, Attilio Lombardo may complete their middle trio. Adams may then be needed.

After being partly at fault for Zola's Wembley goal. Campbell has something to prove and, like most English players, he now knows something of Zola's tricks. Only real concern is occasional tendancy to have an off-day, as recently against Emile Heskey.











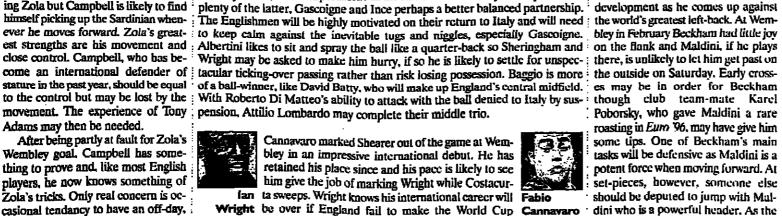






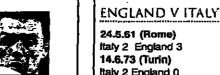






Italy manager's son. Maldini will be

more motivated than anyone.



Italy 2 England 0 14.11.73 (Wembley) England 0 Italy 1 28.5.76 (New York) England 3 Italy 2 17.11.76 (Rome, World Cup Italy 2 England 0 16.11.77 (Wembley, World Cup qualifier) England 2 Italy 0 15.6.80 (Turin, European Italy 1 England 0 6.6.85 (Mexico City) England 1 Italy 2 15.11.89 (Wembley) England 0 Italy 0 7.7.90 (Barl, World Cup finals third-place play-off) Italy 2 England 1 12.2.97 (Wembley, World Cup qualifier) England 0 Italy 1 4.6.97 (Nantes, Le Tournoi) England 2 Italy 0

### Special occasion to bring out the best in the drinking classes

Pubs, clubs and bars across the land are expecting record profits tonight with England's game against Italy being shown live only on Sky, so denying terrestial fans the chance to watch the game from their armchairs if they want to see it as it happens.

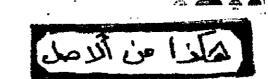
There are almost 40,000 such drinking establishments in the UK, and they expect to make additional profits of around £20m due to the sale of additional drinks and food. The brewers Carling expect a rise in sales similar to the one they experienced during Euro 96. Andy Sutherden, a Carling spokesman, said that then "volume in pub sales climbed by 28 per cent. We expect a similar reaction on Saturday".

Bars across the country are urging fans to arrive carly in order to get a seat and avoid disappointment. Tom Gilman, manager of the Sports Cafe in Leeds said: "We are telling

people to come down by 4pm. Landlords across the country are getting into the spirit of . the occasion. Marc Casey, owner of the Hobgoblin in Bristol, has transformed his pub to give a stadium atmosphere with surround sound speakers connected to two huge screens. "The pub's full of red, white and, blue bunting and our famous 'Gazza's dentist chair' where punters down tequila shots,"

Casey said.

Billy Gilligan, landlord of the Scarisbrick Arms in Lancashire, is making a stand against Sky's domination of televised football. "We will be watching on ITV at 10.0pm. The windows will all be blacked out during the game and there will be someone on the door warning people not to mention the result. Anyone caught whispering the score will be shown a red card and be banned for four meals." Gilligan said.



# Brown wary of the Latvian threat

Only a team from a tiny **Baltic** state stand between Scotland and automatic qualification the World Cup finals.

The Tartan Army is getting ready to party in the streets of Glasgow, but, as Phil Show discovered, the word from the Scotland camp is caution first. celebration second.

If, before the schedule for the qualifying series was drawn up, Glenn Hoddle and Craig Brown had been asked to choose between needing only a point from their last match or having to win and still not be certain of reaching the World Cup finals, it is safe to assume neither would have selected the second option.

Had it been explained, however, that the choice would lie between holding Italy in a stadium where they are practically invincible and beating Latvia in a ground heaving with home supporters, the answer might have been different.

By the time eternal enemy

Ray Houghton will captain the

tonight, Celtic Park will have sent the Tartan Army away to become a menace to sobriety.

The signs are, both in terms of Scotland's record under Brown and the precedents of five successful campaigns in the past quarter of a century, that they will be drinking to remember.

"We have to show our usual enthusiasm, but it must be tempered by great concentration" he said, after the final training session beneath a cloudburst at Kilmarnock. "One lapse in that area could beat us.

"Fortunately our players are hugely experienced. A lot of them play in the English Premiership where a second's loss of concentration can kill you."

To some, this may sound like talking up a tiny Baltic state who have beaten only Belarus and Estonia in Group Four. But Brown could take an bonours course in the football of the former Soviet republic and his studies convince him that the likes of Vitas Rimkus, a striker he likens to Gerd Müller, and the playmaker, Vladimir Babichev, are a cut above most

of their contemporaries. caution, sees no reason why "Latvia try to play," he they should. "We take optimism warned. "They do get men get underway in the Eternal City back behind the ball when they

GROUP EIGHT: REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



The Scotland manager Craig Brown (left) and Colin Hendry prepare for action

Photograph: Scottish Daily Record

all in such good form. John Collins, for instance, is now captaining Monaco. Gary McAllister's back to top form after a much needed summer break. Kevin Gallacher's on fire, and Roy Hodgson tells me Colin Hendry has been immense for Blackburn since he got back to

"These players deserve to qualify for their attitude. The fans deserve it too - we've had from the way we beat Belarus a full house at every home and the fact that our players are game and a fantastic away

100 per cent fitness.

following. I saw the Swedes in Belarus and they had about a dozen supporters. We took several hundred."

The match in Minsk produced one of 17 clean sheets in Scotland's last 23 fixtures; incredibly they have let in just three goals in 15 hours of competitive football since losing to England at Euro 96. Reinforced by such statistics, Brown expects to win "1-0 or 2-0" and anticipates that victory would suffice.

"Put it this way," he said, "I'll

be looking for a stewards' inquiry if Spain lose at home to the Faroe Islands and take the best runners-up place."

Whatever the outcome, the Scotland squad will disperse after the game - not to reconvene until Denmark visit Ibrox for a friendly in March - rather than staying together to watch the "other" match.

As part of Channel Five's promotion for their coverage of the Scotland game, Brown appeared on The Jack Docherty Show late on Thursday. "He was trying to set me up to say I hoped England would lose," the manager said, before revealing that bravado does enter his thinking after all.

"I hope they win - and that we then get our revenge by beating them in the World Cup semi-final."

GROUP NINE: NORTHERN IRELAND

### Giggs given Gould's vote of confidence

Republic of Ireland for the first time in today's World Cup A qualifier against Romania in leading by example." Dublin - and his manager is convinced he has made a wide Mick McCarthy named the

McCarthy chooses Houghton

35-year-old Reading playercoach as the stand-in captain for the injured Andy Townsend and said: "He's been doing this kind of job for years without actually wearing the armband.

"It's a nice reward for him after all the service he's given Ireland over the years. His qualities are well known to everybody and I have been play-offs on 29 October.

exalting his virtues for ages. Ray is a talker on the pitch, always encouraging other players and

Houghton will be Ireland's third different captain in consecutive matches. Aston Villa's Steve Staunton, who took over from the suspended Townsend for the 2-1 win in Lithuania last month, has been left out of Mc-Carthy s squad this week.

He is one of 11 Republic players on a yellow card; and McCarthy's dilemma is whether to risk any of the others, who could fall foul of suspension for the first leg of the World Cup

Ryan Giggs, the new captain of prised it has come so quickly." Wales, has revealed that his dream is to lead his country to the World Cup finals. The 23-

year-old Manchester United winger, who has won medals galore in the English game, even puts his Welsh quest above more titles at Old Trafford. Giggs takes over as captain from the suspended Gary the foture.

Speed for the encounter with Belgium in Brussels tonight, with Wales already out of the tournament. He said: "Captaining my country has been a dream of mine. I have thought about it and hoped it would

lose possession, but unlike Be-

larus they look capable of scor-

ing. You worry about them

from the point of view of the

quick counter-attack. We need

to impose ourselves on the

game and dictate the tempo."

minedly low-key style, Brown is

unlikely to spring any selection

surprises. Despite having only

four caps, Christian Dailly

looks certain to keep his place

in the back three. The return of

Colin Hendry to that unit may

mean Tom Boyd earning his

50th cap in left-midfield at the

expense of Tosh McKinlay,

whose lack of first-team op-

portunities with Celtic could

Donnelly has been enjoying a

scoring streak for the host club.

Gordon Durie's experience

should earn him the nod as

Kevin Gallacher's partner.

McKinlay's ability to deliver

free-kicks and crosses, along

with the drive and scoring

knack of David Hopkin, will

doubtless be summoned if Scot-

ance between confidence and

**GROUP SEVEN: WALES** 

Brown, while seeking a bal-

land struggle.

Up front, where Simon

count against him.

In keeping with his deter-

Only Mike England, at 22, captained the Welsh at a younger age than Cardiff-born Giggs. Bobby Gould, the Wales

manager, will probably restore Speed to the captaincy for Wales' next international - but it is clear that Giggs could well become skipper permanently in . Giggs said: "I have won so

much for Manchester United but this will be the greatest moment of my life. I will be so proud to lead Wales out.

"I do not believe it is out of question that one day Wales

Reaching that stage is more important to me personally than anything, but of course I want more titles too with United."

Giggs' previous experience of captaincy was with England Schoolboys, Wales' youth XI and United's youth team. Gould, who will not name

his team until just before the kick-off, said: "This is all part of Rvan's football education. Alex Ferguson has nurtured him at United into a wonderful player. I talked to Ryan briefly before he came out to Brussels and he has reacted very positively to the challenge. It is happen but I am a little sur- will reach the World Cup finals. a great honour for him."

### Lomas keeps the armband

Steve Lomas is set for a long reign as Northern Ireland's captain. His international manager, Bryan Hamilton, was very impressed with how the West Ham midfielder performed in his first match as skipper against Albania last month, and had no hesitation in handing him the armband again for tonight's World Cup qualifier against Portugal in Lisbon even though Jim Magilton, who led the Irish against Germany, has returned to the squad after injury.

Lomas, who has 23 caps, may only be 23, but Hamilton feels he has great leadership back," Lomas said.

qualities. It is a view shared by the Hammers' manager, Harry Redknapp, who made Lomas his captain earlier this season. "He's young, and could be captain for a long time," he said.

Portugal need to win in Benfica's Stadium of Light and hope Ukraine drop points in Armenia to claim second place in Group Nine and a play-off spot. Northern Ireland have drawn their last two matches against the Portuguese, including a fine 1-1 draw in Porto two years ago. "They have got to go for it, so hopefully they will leave some gaps at the

### Danes steel themselves for Greek onslaught

Peter Schmeichel has become used to keeping goal in front of hostile crowds during all his years with Manchester United, but even he might be taken aback by what lies in wait for him and his Danish team-mates tonight.

Denmark hold a threepoint lead in Group One, but if they lose to Greece in front of 75,000 fervent fans in Athens' Olympic Stadium tonight they will have to settle for a place in the play-offs and the Greeks will snatch the automatic qualifying place.

Schmeichel is one of five British-based players in the Danes' likely starting XI. Another, Brian Laudrup of Rangers, who is hoping to recover from a tendon injury, knows what is needed tonight. "We have come here to win," he said, "The Greeks have come a long way but I still believe we are a better team."

His brother, Michael, is fit after a thigh injury but the Derby defender Jacob Laursen will miss the match after pulling a groin muscle. Mikkel Beck. the Middlesbrough striker, has joined the squad as a replacement. "The choice of Beck, a striker, to replace Laursen, a defender is strange," one Danish journalist said. "I fear he was called because Brian Laudrup is still in pain."

The Greek coach, Costas Polychroniou, knows what his plans will be. "We will attack from the first minute hoping for an early goal," he said yesterday.

If the Greeks lose they could be eliminated altogether - if Croatia win in Slovenia. That scenario would earn the Croats a place in the play-offs, where they could be drawn against Yugoslavia.

- Rupert Metcalf

## World Cup 1998: The countdown to France's festival of football

THE FINALS The World Cup finals start on Wednesday 10 June. The final is at the new Stade de France in Paris on Sunday 12 July. The draw for the World Cup finals will take place in Marseilles on Thursday 4 December. A record number of 32 teams will take part in the finals, which will feature 64 matches.

Finals format: First round: Eight groups of four teams. Second round: Last 16 (group winners and runners-up) knock-out. Quarterfinals: Last eight knockout Semi-finals: Last four knock-out.

**ALREADY QUALIFIED** 

Hosts France Holders Brazil Europe Norway Bulgaria Spain Romania South America Argentina Colombia · Paraguay . Africa Nigeria Morocco Tunisia South Africa Cameroon Still to qualify: Europe: 11 more teams (six to be decided today). South America: One more team.

Concacat: Three teams Asia-Oceania: Four teams. EUROPE Qualification process: The first round of European qualification ends today with the nine group winners and the best runner-up (see runners-up standings) qualifying directly for the finals. The other eight runners-up will be drawn on Monday in four pairs and play. qualifying matches on a home and away basis on 29 October and 15 November. The four winners on aggregate will also qualify for the finals.



Denmark, who have recalled the Mid-diesbrough forward Mikkel Back, trav-el to the cauldron of the Olympic stadium in Athens knowing that a draw will ensure qualification for France. A Greek win, however, would earn the home side top place on goal difference. nome sale sup place on goal orierence. If the Greeks don't win they are likely to miss out altogether, though, because Croatia can be expected to gain meximum points away to their Balkanneighbours, Slovenia, the section's bottom team. That would be enough to earn the Croats a play-off place – unless Greece win.

Brian Laudrup (Denmark) After the Danes were crushed by Croatia at Euro 96, few would have expected Dermark to be where are now; four points ahead of the Croatis. The outstanding Rangers forward can take much of the credit he scored a late leveller in a 1-1 draw in Croatia and opened the scoring in 3-0 in Bosnia... **Group Two** 

One to watch

PW D L F A Page 7 8 0 1 1 5 2 18 7 5 2 0 11 1 17 7 7 3 1 3 10 9 10 7 2 1 4 4 9 7 8 0 0 8 2 21 0 findures: Today: Italy v England; In contrast to Group One, the qualifi-

or current to croup one, are quant-cation equation is simple. If England draw or win, their tans can start book-ing their Eurostar tickets, They might even qualify today if they lose – as long the Sector do not the es the Scots do not win.

England have worries over David Backham (heavy cold) and Garath Southgate (thigh injury) while italy's only known fitness worry, the experienced sweeper Circ Fetrara, is on the road sweeper from a time failing. sweeper care remara, as on the road to recovery from a knee injury. Italy's Giardinanco Zola has said that his countrymen are at their best when they are up against it. Tonight, we will find out if that is true...

Teddy Sheringham (England) Not, perhaps, the obvious choice as England's man of England's man of the qualifying series but, if Hoddles team get a draw in flome and top the group despite taking only one point off italy, they can, thank Sheringtem, who and repeated the feat at home to the England, to away wirs which were beyond the italians against the same opposition.

Italian and top the group despite taking only can, thank Sheringtem, who are ferred to the can thank Sheringtem, who are ferred to the can thank Sheringtem. Who are ferred to the can thank Sheringtem, who are game Austria won despite beyond the italians against the with several week and wife the man the combative Henro, an experienced Real Macht man who can also play as a midfield enforcer.

Curing USA 94 and he flooped at Euro 96, but the colourful tack - which is not surprising because the top clubs in the superising because the top clubs in the primera Line always forward lines that the special to the series to the defenders is the durable and combative Henro, an experienced Real Macht man who can also play as a midfield enforcer.



Norway have won the group easily, so all their remains to be decided is the play-off place. With home advantage, Finand ought to be able to see off a hungarian side who have nothing in common except nationality with the mighty Magyars of the early 1950s. manny magyars of the early 15cus, lart Litmanen of Ajax is a class act, while all his Finnish team-mates have learned much from their coach, Fischerd Möller Nelsen, who steered Denmark to success in the 1992 European Championship. However, Rengers Anti Nemi is highed so the Finns must choose between two inexperienced understudies in goal.

> One to watch Erik Mykland (Norway) Erik Mykdand (Norway)
> In winning their
> group, Norway have
> been untested by
> world-class opposition: In May, though,
> a full-strength Brazil
> were besten 4-2 in a
> friendly in Oslo. Tore
> Andre Flo and RonMy Jornsen were both in

| P W D L F A Pts | P W D L F

One to watch Andreas Herzog (Austria) The best Austrian player of his genera-tion. A midfielder who

Bulgaria (C) — 7 6 0 1 16 5 14 Ruesia — 7 6 0 1 16 5 14 Iarael — 8 4 1 3 9 7 13 Cyprus — 7 2 1 4 8 15 7 Lucembourg — 7 0 0 7 2 20 0 Remaining fixtures: Today: Cyprus v Lux-embourg; Russia v Bulgaria.

Russia have rarely looked fluent in the qualifiers and have recalled two veterans for today's game: Igor Dobrovolsid and the former Millwall striker Sergei Yuran, now with VII. Bochum in the German Bundesliga.

Trifon Ivanov (Bulgaria)

One to watch Fernando Hierro (Spain) . For over a decade the Spanish team

Whatever happens today, the top two placings in this group will not change. Bulgaria have qualified for France with the nucleus of the team who reached the last four in 1994: Ivanov, Balakov, Lechkov, Stoichkov and Kostadinov. The new players, including Georgi Bachev and Georgi Ivanov, both lust promoted from the Under-21 squad, are untested at top level. Russita have rarely looked then the integral of the players and obsvers are Overmars' Arsanal Marc Overmars has been recalled to the Dutch squad to replace the suspended Wirm Jork. Other Englishbased players are Overmars' Arsenal colleague Dennis Bergicamp, Nottingham Forests Pierre van Hoolidonk and the Chiesea goalkeeper Ed de Goey. Despite injury problems, Belglum have dropped Newcastles Philippe Albert.

In winning their group, Norway have been untested by world-class opposition: in May, though, the state of Europes most-teared and hairiest — defenders. He also scores wital goals, including the only goal of the game about 4-2 in a friendly in Oslo. Tore Andre Flo and Romanio wanted to know the name of the player who stole the show with some timiling runs from midfleid. The enswer: Erik Mykland, who adds flair to a functional learn.

Group Four Dennis Bergicamp (Netherlands)

One to watch

Remaining flatures: Today; Iceland v Lisch tansteln; Papublic of Ireland v Romanis; Mace donia v Lithuania.

Austria are inconsistent, but they should be fer too good for Belarus and the Spaniards lose at home to the finals as the best of the second-placed teams. Sweden, who will surely beat Estonia, can snatch second place in the unlikely event of the Scots losing in Glasgow.

Scotland must not be complacent, though Although their best player, Vitally Astafyev, is suspended, the Lativians are a decent side with fewer benefited from the European expanience of their top club, Skonto Figs.

Hustria are inconsistent, but they should be fer too good for Belarus and the Spaniards lose at home to the first one to the part of the second with the campaign without dropping and the Spaniards lose at home to the finals as the best of the campaign without dropping a point, the first will finish second under the injured Keane and Townsend and have left out the sould slide but, because their clubs employ so many foreign players, some of their squad spend their weekends on substitutes' benches.

The Yugoslavs will be tough opponents for anyone in the play-offs – as long of their top club, Skonto Figs.

Milosevic to score their goals.

He was dropped during USA 94 and he flooped at Euro 96, but the colourful States is still in goal for homania – and he has played a big part in his side maintaining a 100 per-cent record furing the qualifiers. Not least during

Bogdan Stelez (Romania)

One to watch

Sergel Rebrov (Ukraine) Reaching the play-offs by finishing above the talented Portuguese would Portuguese would be a tremendous achievement for a Ukraine side who have made an impact in international tootball quicker than expected. Much of the cradit must go to the 22-year-old Rebrov, a predatory striker who scored valuable winners away to both Northern Ireland and Albania. He will not stay with Dynamo Klev for long... Runners-up standings

One to watch

Germany will be without the injured Matthlas Semmer, Jürgen Klinsmann and Ulf Kirsten, while Portugats Injured absentaes are the defender Jorge Costa and goalkeeper Vitor Beia. Their midfield playmater Rui Costa is suspended.

Runners-up will be ranked according to the following critistia: 1 Points gained in matchtourning crisins: 1 Points gained in macri-es against teems coming top, third and fourth in group, 2 Goal difference in these games, 3 Goals soured in these games, 4 Goals scored against these opponents in sway games, if the best numer-up sall carnot be identified, there will be a play-off be neutral ground on 19 October. The standings of current second-placed teams, plus Englands record in the relevant games, are as follows:

In the highty unlikely event of Spain losing at home to the Farce lales on Salurday, and Yugoslavia winning in Maita to finish first in Group Six, Spain will quality for the finals as the best runner-up. Assuming Spain beat the Farces, as expected, to win Group Six, Soptiand will not the runners-up table if they beat I evisi. best Lativis.

It Scottand fail to win and England lose in table Strojend will finish top of the runners-up table with 12 points - unless results in Group Seven allow Belgium (or the Netherlands) to finish above them. For example, if England lose 2-0 and Belgium best Wales 6-0, Selgium would be the best of the runners-up.

If Scottand fail to win and England draw in Rome, tably will top the runners-up table - barring unlikely results as above.

Europe's World Cup finalists 1974-94 1974 1978 1982 Y\* Germany should beat Albenia, whose players seem more interested in seeking political asylum than striving for points away from home, to win the group, if Ukraine win in Armenia they will be in the play-offs, but if they draw they will be overtaken if Portugal beat Northern treland at home.

Germany will be without the loured Belgium Netherlands Poland . Austria . Bulgaria England . France . Hungary . Soviet Union. Rep of Ireland Portugal . Y - Qualified, N - Failed to qualify

SOUTH AMERICA	ASIA
Qualification process: Top four in league	Qualification process: Winners of two
quelify for finals.	and-round groups quality for finals. Flund
PWDLFAPs	up in each group qualify for play-off at ne vanue on 16 November, Play-off winners
Argentina (Q)14 8 4 2 22 12 28	ity for finals, play-off losers meet Aust
Colombia (Q)15 8 3 4 22 14 27	home and away (draw to decide order
Paraguay (C)14 6 2 4 20 18 26 Parti14 8 4 4 18 16 22	22 and 29 November for place at finals
hile14 5 4 5 25 18 19	Second round: Group A
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\*\* East Germany qualified in 1974; West Germany qualified from 1974-90 inclusive-ty; unified Germany played in 1994 finals.

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Qualified as holders. † Qualified as hosts

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Qualification complete: Nigena, Morocco, Turkisa, South Africa and Cameroon have qualified for finals.

Australia won preliminary qualifying com-petition and will play off against an Asian team qualified for finals.

Text and statistics by Rupert Metcalf and Phil Shaw

Saturday 11 October 1997

# England must battle against history and histrionics

After 13 months and 6,000 miles, England's journey to France 98 and the 16th World Cup has reached a crucial stage. If they avoid defeat against Italy tonight, they will qualify for football's biggest tournament for the first time in eight years. If they fail, they will have to face a play-off. From Rome Glenn Moore, our Football Correspondent assesses their chances.

The last time England played a World Cup tie in Italy, the result was immaterial. When they meet tonight, the result will be everything.

The last encounter, at Italia 90, was the unloved third place play-off. With both countries still shattered by losing semifinals on penalties the game was an irrelevance, memorable only for being unusually open.

Tonight's game is unlikely to be anything like as watchable but an 83,000 crowd, and millions of television viewers in both countries, will be consumed by it. Individual and national pride are at stake, personal and professional fortunes hang in the balance.

The winner has the ultimate prize, a place in next summer's World Cup finals in France. It is a bigger prize than winning the competition itself - for the ignominy, for two such proud footballing countries, of not even being there is immeasurable. It was bad enough for England in 1994, when the finals were in America. Imagine missing out when they are just across the Channel, or, for Italy, just over the Alps

True, there is a second second-placed finisher, they will



Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, takes centre stage yesterday as his squad train for tonight's World Cup qualifier against Italy in Rome

Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

but, with strong sides like Croatia. Russia and Yugoslavia among possible opponents, neither can be sure.

England's task is simple they need a point. But it is not easy, Italy have played 15 World Cup ties in Rome dating back chance. If the runner-up in the more than 60 years and won group does not qualify as the best them all. England have not won in Italy since 1961 and, four still have a two-leg play-off. The years ago, lost to the Nether-

night and will need fortune as well as resilience, skill and nerve this evening. If they have fortune, they could make one. Qualifying for the World Cup will be worth, according to the Football Association's marketing chief, £100m to English football. Some of this will filter directly to the players,

up to £200,000 per man. Even by today's standards is is a tidy sum but Phil Car-

They were a little unlucky that tor, is correct when he said the motivation in the Stadio Olimpico will not be the money. The chance to play at the pinnacle of the game will be the factor that will encourage players to keep making the tracking runs, to put a head among flying boots and, hopefully, to assume responsibility. Of England's present squad

only Paul Gascoigne, the inspi-David Seaman. ration in 1990, has played in a fithe English of passing such a test with an identical assignment. ling, the FA promotions directional campaign. Like Paul Ince, them together and you have the such worries over Ince, having

who was yesterday named captain, Tony Adams, Teddy Sheringham and Ian Wright, Gascoigne knows he may not get another opportunity. If he and Ince, the two Serie A veterans, can gain control in midfield England ought to succeed. If they do not England, with fitness doubts surrounding central defence, may become over-dependent on

ideal midfielder," said Glenn Hoddle, "so they are a well-balanced pair." Technically, maybe, but not always temperamentally.

Gascoigne, according to Hoddle, is maturing fast, but not so fast that he was prepared to risk exposing him to the combined wiles of the English and Italian media. "He can get too tense," admitted Hoddle, "I will be sitting down and chatting to him."

Hoddle, presumably, has no

chosen him to be captain ahead of Adams. "Paul is made for this game, he is coming back to somewhere where he has a lot

of respect and did extremely well," Hoddle said. "Tony is still on his way back to full fitness. He has been out a very long time and, if he starts the game, I want him to be 110 per cent focused on his performance. To give him the responsibility of captaincy may hinder that."

Given that Adams has coped

with the captaincy of Arsenal and, periodically, England, for more than a decade despite suf fering "donkey" abuse, alcoholism and imprisonment, this seems unlikely. However, Hoddle insists that Adams struggied to combine both roles in Aisenal's recent match at Chelsea and he would not want a repeat. Besides, said Hoddle: "Ince will definitely start."

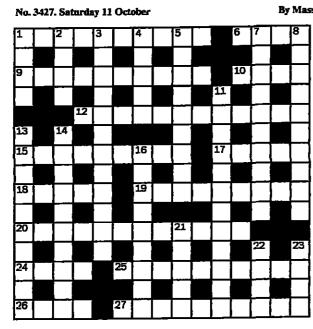
Adams is one of three fitness concerns. Gareth Southgate and David Beckham being the others. While Hoddle's worries over Adams are about his general physical and mental sharp ness, the others are specific Southgate has a stiff thigh while Beckham has a cold. Both are rated 50-50, but, judging by their condition at training last night, are unlikely to play.

The final selection is still such a mystery. Apart from the fitness doubts, the big debate is whether to play Steve McManaman, and at whose expense and who to play wide left. Given England need a draw David Batty is likely to keep McManaman out in a five-man midfield, although on both previous times Hoddle has met Italy he has played one striker up front with two forwards (McManaman and Matt Le Tissier at. Wembley, Sheringham and Paul Scholes in Nantes) tucked in béhind. On the left Graeme Le Saux may just see off the chatlenge of Phil Neville (also Beckham's understudy on the right)." and Andy Hinchcliffe.

The Italians, who have named their team, will be without Ciro Ferrara. Alessandro Costacurta will sweep behind a back three while Christian Vieri has won the nod to partner

Gianfranco Zola. While England have failed to qualify for three of the last six World Cups, Italy have not been absent since 1958. At least three of tonight's team played in the last final, when Italy lost to Brazil on penalties. England's task is formidable but achievable. ITALY (1-8-4-2): Penzzi; Coessourts; Cennsero; Nesta, Maldini; Lomberdo, Albertini, D Baggio,

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

**ACROSS** 

Two birds, audible before me, variegated (10) Eager to see a good turn returned (4) Against wearing lordly

waterproof? (10) Tract has margin moved 4 hack (4)

12 Imperfect attributes of certain bees? (12) 15 Stair with moving case. reportedly of more re-

17 Gum finds parts of den-tures intolerable (5) 18 Puncture's cause of

parking offence, we hear (5) 19 The cloth participates with those in confession

20 Cogent factor reducing trade with craft round American island (12) 24 See moon ultimately wax around the country

Edge back, facing awful time in journey (10) Hard joining military

elite's framework (4)

DOWN

Pawn, look, delivering Cut east and run (4) Ticker expert has 100 or so (digital) for repair

Dashes, flies around Italy (5)
Girl to take up role in celebrated play (9)
They're attuned to vari-

ations in pitch? (10) Talk idly about shrines designed for show (10) 11 Musician's clear, is immersed in endless lu-

cidity (12) 13 Note, daughter likes eating very soft fruits

14 Actions involving the har? (10) 16 Is it caused by the end-less lifting? (9)21 Dizzy from glare (5)

Whip up old Mexican Jam the communication. losing time (4)

## When 90 minutes lasts the night

Saturday is not the night for a football match that means so much. Adam Szreter looks forward anxiously to an experience that will tax friendships and upset

domestic life.

Thank God we don't play football every Saturday night. How do the Spanish and the French manage it? This week has been bad enough, trying to get the message through to your other half, your non-footballing half, that you just aren't going to be in a normal frame of mind

come 7.45 tonight. I decided to invite some friends around, but the first one had exactly the same problem. Well, I'm going to be watching it, but Cath's not really very keen on football," he said.

"Well that's fine," I replied, because neither is Jane. They can, er, go in the kitchen or something, and talk. I'm going to invite a few other people and they won't all be interested in the football." "Er. yes." He didn't sound too convinced.

"We can lay on some food, was about to happen and Junothing formal, a buffet type thing," I said, "and it's not as

though it goes on all evening." You always think it only lasts 90 minutes, you never legislate for pre-match, postmatch, half-time, injury time. At least there won't be extra time and penalties. Shame. One person I won't be invit-

ing is my new friend Paolo. We reached a very early decision not to watch the match together. It was soon after I'd gone round to see the Manchester United-Juventus game with Paolo and his friend. It was mostly pretty civilised.

I agreed that Brian Moore was not the most impartial commentator and I was quick to concede that Sheringham had been yards offside when Scholes scored United's second, soon after the half-time pizza had arrived. I wondered if that was what Italians do when they watch a football match. We drink beer, they eat pizza.

It all went uncomfortably quiet after Deschamps was sent off. No complaints from Paolo, just the dawning realisation that the unthinkable

ventus were going to lose.

Paolo put a call through on-Wednesday, ostensibly to give me his new address but really to wish me bad luck for Saturday. He said Ian Wright was the one they feared most, and agreed that threatening to arrest Paul Gascoigne as soon as he arrived in Italy was not really in the spirit of things. I wished him good luck in the play-offs.

I rang my friend David in Rome, who will watch the match in the square around the corner from his office, where they've erected a giant screen, and he'd also placed an order with his local flower shop.

After Italy had beaten England at Wembley in February, he arrived at work to find a bunch of chrysanthemums on his desk, the traditional mark of respect at an Italian funeral. "I'm looking forward to this," he said. "This is my moment."

I hadn't the heart to point out that, when it comes to the crunch, England invariably lose. If only it could be different this time. But please, whatever the outcome, never again on a Saturday night.

### Fears grow as touts cash in

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Fears of trouble flaring during England's World Cup decider azainst Italy tonight grew yesterday when touts were seen openly selling tickets to England fans outside Rome's Olympic Stadium. One party of supporters from Rochdale bought up to 20 tickets ask 10,000 English fans began to gather in the city.

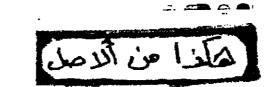
In the middle of Rome a tout with an east London accent was offering English fans "as many tickets as you like" in the sections of the stadium reserved for Italians. Some tickets were being offered for £150, others surprisingly for as little as £20.

There are also concerns that the seating arrangements, with fans from opposing sides close together, could lead to trouble.

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ареть, 01988 840370:

Ye shall drink no wine. Jeremiah 35:6 for it is written. Luka 4:8



# MONEY YOUR

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING

Saturday 11 October 1997



Reading the Will' by D Wilkie: Time spent choosing competent executors, whether lay or professional, can prevent complications arising when the estate is

### Before you go, do your heirs one last favour

Your head won't ache when the time comes to read your will. But you could be leaving a real and potentially costly headache for your heirs if you fail to make your wishes crystal clear, or if you have

not bothered to appoint executors who are competent to administer your estate. Rachel Fosen reports.

You've just died. Your nephew claims you promised that after your death he could keep the prized classic car you kept in his garage. But your daughter and son-in-law are now threatening to take him to court

unless he hands back the keys.

Ugly feuds between relatives grappling over inheritances is the stuff of soap operas. In real life, the beneficiaries of a will are rarely unprincipled vultures. Usually they just want to make sure a loved one's last wishes are carried out. But complications can arise after you die, so it is important to choose the right person

as executor of your will. Deciding just who that should be is not protracted and complicated task when they're grieving.

The alternative is to appoint a professional – usually a bank or an individual solicitor. But letting these professionals siphon away some of your beneficiaries' inheri-

Many of the big names in banking are only too willing to act as executors. The trustworthiness, bankers say. If you feel your relatives are likely to squabble over your will, it might be easier to appoint a disinterested party as executor, rather than one of the beneficiaries themselves.

People want the reassurance that things will be managed strictly according to their wishes," says Michael Bird, head of client services at Barclay Irust. Also, a bank can easily be sued if it makes a

But the service is far from free, Banks' charges are based not on time spent but on the value of the estate, and fees can eat up a sizeable chunk of the money you leave behind. On an estate worth £100,000,

easy. The last thing you want is to burden Lloyds Bank would charge £3,000 to act as structures which can be on the heavy side." work to do at a time of grief was not the people you care about most with a executor, and add service fees on top of this depending on how many assets and debts are involved.

The Royal Bank of Scotland would charge £4,000, but says it may vary these fees, charging more for a complex task or less for a simple one - particularly where tance in fees hardly seems kind either. the main asset is a house in which a sur-

viving husband or wife will continue to live. You can name a solicitor as your execappeal of appointing a bank to manage your utor. In many cases, rather than claiming affairs is in the institution's impartiality and . a percentage of the value of the estate, soutor. In many cases, rather than claiming licitors acting as executors will charge for the work involved. This makes it harder to gauge exactly how much the fees will be, but with a simple will it could be cheaper.

Julian Korn, partner at City solicitors Beachcroft Stanleys, recently charged £750 plus VAT for acting as executor of a £90,000 estate which had about three assets. If an estate of the same size had been complicated, this could have been as much

as £3,000 to £4,000, he says.
But this is assuming the high hourly rates charged by central London firms. In the else," says Mr Lemon.

country, fees could be half these levels. "Banks are likely to be less flexible than individuals, and they have charging

Mr Korn says.

Apart from the cost, grieving relatives may find banks upsetting to deal with, says Tom Lemon, senior partner at Ealing-based solicitors Prince Evans. "The banks can be very impersonal ... and you don't get the feeling that they are involved," he says. Having a named solicitor as executor can help. "It's comforting to the individual to be able to sit for 20 minutes and talk about the per-

son who has just died," Mr Lemon says. But solicitors agree there's often no real advantage in naming a solicitor as executor. It could be better to appoint a close relative or friend as lay executor, who can in turn enlist a solicitor's services at the time if they feel they can't do it on their own.

This could even be cheaper, as it enables the lay executor to shop around when the time comes, and to do a portion of the work themselves. "A lot of people do find, when they are grieving, they don't want to be faced with a constant stream of letters they would rather pass it on to someone

But Peter Rodgers, who works in the City, acted as executor of his father's will 18 months ago and found having the extra

unwelcome. "It was rather a useful way of keeping my mind occupied," he says.

He found the task straightforward, and reckons he spent two days in total doing it. "With a simple will where there is a relatively small amount of money and it's to be distributed among a small number of people - it's a simple process," he says.

Mr Rodgers said he borrowed a book on bow to be an executor. The main obstacle was getting the right forms from the probate office at Somerset House, though once he had them, he found they were very good and clear.

When you make a will you have to name between one and four executors. If you appoint two or more, this provides protection if one turns out to be unreliable, as decisions have to be made unanimously.

You should consider the following before naming someone: Is this person bonest? Have they agreed to do the job? Are they likely to be around after you die?

Law Society: 0171-242 1222. Prince Evans: 0181-567 3477. Lloyds Bank: 0171-626 1500. BarclayTrust: 0171-403 4833. Beachcroft Stanleys: 0171-242 1011.

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The dippy Dow

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# Shopping for best service

NIC CICUTTI

Years ago, when I were has fought back. Legal & "no but a lad", I recall many dire warnings about the likely impact of big banks and building societies in the marketing of financial services products.

The argument went as follows: These banks have a large client base [that's you and me) that they can sell to. The products will be aimed at the lowest common denominator [you and me again], which means people won't be as well served with pensions or life assurance, or investments as they might be.

What's happened since? Well, many banks and building societies have launched their own life assurance arms. Some have even come out with competitive products. Of note is Nationwide's personal pension plan, a good-value option for many people.

the most part, the big battalions have failed to deliver. Some of their products are even less competitive than the life insurers they were meant to supplant. A special mention here for NatWest Life, whose pension products offer such poor value that you would need your head examining just to entertain the thought of taking one out.

What has been far more interesting in recent years has been the combination of two particular features.

The first has been the arrival of "new" providers, including Direct Line and Virgin, who are delivering highly competitive savings and investment products. Together with Sainsbury's and Tesco. they are revolutionising the world of personal finance.

The second has been the

General, Scottish Widows, Eagle Star, Equitable Life and Merchant Investors have decided to take on the - mainly telephone-based - new financial services providers. Cheap products, with low, or even no up-front charges, are becom-

However, the majority of the industry has lagged behind. In the short term, this means we are denied the supposed benefits that competition should bring to ordinary savers. In the long run, I can't help but think the big insurers, banks and societies are missing something.

This week saw the launch of Tesco's new financial services centres, set to open at stores throughout the UK within 12 months. Over that time, Tesco plans to roll out But the reality is that, for a whole series of new pension products, mortgages and loans. Customers will be able to carry out financial transactions at these centres and connect, via video link, with experts. Sainsbury's will no doubt follow suit.

> More and more, there appears to be a division between some providers who are determined to be the cheapest and - as a result are sucking in huge volumes of business from investors and borrowers. The remainder remain determined to extract as much profits as they can from customers, who they believe are too stupid to go elsewhere.

The answer lies in your hands. You could begin by demanding to know if these high-charging companies are as competitive as their telephone-based rivals. If not, way a handful of life insurers send them packing.

MONEY MAKEOVER

# Enlist tax rules to retire comfortably

Names: George and Patricia Grimes Ages: 63 and 60

Occupations: Retired lecturer and NHS nurse

The problem: George and Patricia will have combined pension incomes of about £20,700 when they have both retired, enough to cover their current outgoings of around £13,000 a year. They also own their home free of mortgage and have a portfolio of shares and other investments worth about £70,000.

Altogether their net worth is about £220,000, of which about 60 per cent is the value of their property. The total does not include the value of cars, caravan and other possessions.

They would like to see if they can generate more income to supplement their pensions.

The adviser: Frank Klonowski is a graduate in theology who spent 12 years in catering management before becoming a consultant with Legal & General in 1988. Five years later he set up his own financial planning business based in Leeds, telephone 0113 273 5255.

The advice: If we apply this year's personal allowances and today's tax rates to next year's projected income - when both pensions are payable their net [after tax] income would be £10,568 and £7,752 respectively.

Each has an annual personal allowance, ie the amount of income allowed before tax becomes payable. This is currently £4,045, but in the next tax year George becomes entitled to the "additional age allowance" - which increases his personal allowance to £5,220. He should be entitled



George and Patricia Grimes risk being caught in the age allowance trap Photograph: News

to this for the whole of the next tax year as he attains 65 during the year.

But this additional allowance is only available where total income is below a certain level - currently £15,600. For every £2 over this level, he would lose £1 of the extra allowance until he reaches the level of the normal personal allowance - an effective tax rate of 34.5 per cent on this portion of income. This is known as the "age allowance trap".

Great care must therefore be taken when adding extra income to their respective pensions. It is usually more tax efficient to create extra income by investing in tax-free instruments like PEPs and Tessas or encashing the gains on investments, rather than simply

choosing income-producing investments which are taxable.

George and Patricia each have an annual capital gains tax allowance, currently £6.500; this can in effect mean an extra £13,000 a year tax free.

Assuming reasonable growth in dividends and capital the maximum that George and Patricia could take from their portfolio to ensure that they do not run out of money too early would be just under £6,500.

They should keep at least £5,000 on deposit to meet immediate needs. After that they should look for taxfree income. Their existing holdings of investment bonds have several advantages. Under present legislation on it is possible to withdraw up to 5

per cent of the original invested amount each year with no immediate tax liability; this is a cumulative

Importantly, this withdrawal facility doesn't at present affect the age allowance.

forward to subsequent years.

figure, and may therefore be carried

They should split the unit trusts equally between them - this gives more flexibility in using their capital gains tax exemptions. Next, they should utilise their general PEP allowances for the 1997/98 tax year. Patricia already contributes £50 per month to a PEP and has done so since April - this means a further £5,400 may be paid, but the choice is limited to the one in which she now saves. She should sus-

pend her direct debit at the end of March to ensure no payments are made in the next tax year - even one monthly payment would mean only be-

ing able to invest in that same PEP. They could buy more PEPs by exchanging up to £11,400 of their current investments, beginning withthe remaining individual shares, then moving on to the two unit trusts. -

Next, they should increase their cash base by putting £3,000 into a Tessa for George and £9,000 into index-linked savings certificates for further tax-free interest. Although this involves leaving them for five years, we have already seen there is sufficient liquidity elsewhere in the, portfolio to cover this period.

George and Patricia also need to consider the possible need to pay for long-term care With full nursing home costs in the provinces estimated at £17,000 a year, the drain on resources may be quite severe.

I understand they have up-to-date "mirror" wills which leave everything to each other, then to their three children. The present inheritance tax liability for their children is £6,680.

George and Patricia may not be able to use their annual exemptions by making gifts to their children, as they will rely on their total portfolio for income. However, they should consider using a Deed of Variation, which enables the terms of a will to be varied within two years of death.

The survivor could then, if necessary, redirect some of the capital to. the children. This would at least use up part of the deceased's mil-rate band

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/HSBC ASSET MANAGEMENT PEP PLUS

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The deal: Invest up to £9,000 they will also get a 20 per cent £3,000 can be put into a PEP greater level of security and can dividual savings account". But - but only if it is invested in a

single company. HSBC gets around this by investing in a company listed a PEP. Normally, investors can in Dublin which can further invest the money, spreading the risk between hundreds of com-Inland Revenue. A further panies. The product gives a replaced in April 1990 by an in-see this sort of Dublin-based

accept money transferred from it is not clear whether PEPs will other PEPs and from windfall

Drawbacks and risks: No PEPs. They are expected to be a risk the Inland-Revenue may down on the product.

retain tax reliefs or be trans-

ferable into the new accounts. Verdict: Don Clark, managone knows what the Govern- ing director of PEP specialists ment is going to do about Torquil Clark, believes there is

PEP as a cheat and refuse to allow tax-free payouts, aithough the strategy has been used before. A good product, but it carrics an extra risk as a result.

Marks out of five: Three or one, if the Revenue cracks

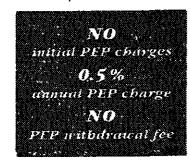
-Andrew Verity

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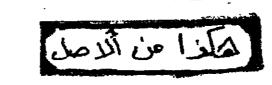
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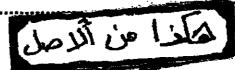
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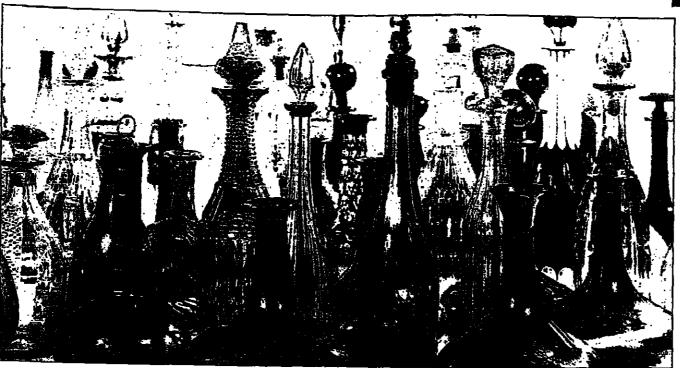
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The spoils of a collector: Decanters from the Parkington Collection, which is being auctioned on 16 and I7 October



# Glass that's a cut above the rest

Michael Parkington was charming, witty, cunning and egotistical ~ according to both friends and rivals. He was also one of the world's foremost glass collectors. As the fruit of his mania goes under the hammer next week, john Windsor previews the auction.

Even if you cannot attend the sale, be sure to buy a catalogue for South Ken's auction of the biggest-ever private collection of British art glass, a comprehensive 525 lots spanning three centuries. Complete with market guide, especially to the largely uncharted later Victorian engraved glass.

Hide it in your pocket when trying to decide whether those perplexing, multicoloured vases and glasses in boot sales and markets are junk or worth hundreds. In fact, South Ken is considering re-issuing the catalogue with prices replacing estimates.

The glass collector Michael Parkington, who died in 1994 aged 71, was a solicitor who developed a passion for British glass while in South Africa defending Nelson Mandela on treason charges in the early Sixties. He was a towering figure, charming, witty and cunning and was an insatiable buyer who paid dealers top prices and in-

timidated glass enthusiasts in the saleroom. The antique dealer Richard Dennis, Parkington's London buying agent, says: "The sale catalogue will be a marker: traders will say: 'Look, it's £600 in Parkington - I'll let you have it for £500."

It is Parkington's taste for 19th century names such as Varnish and Apsley Pellat and 20th century names such as Monart (including post-sale price sheet it will be an invaluable Ysart paperweights), Gray-Stan and Stuart - none of them well known at street level that will be under scrutiny at the auction next Thursday (2pm) and Friday (10.30am).

During his lifetime Parkington singlehandedly pushed up prices for Scottish Monart glass of the Thirties - mostly colourful vases with abstract swirls and un-

them up further. Jane Hay, head of Christie's South Ken's glass department, watched him bid what she thought were crazy prices for Monart in the Eighties.

In the sale, Ms Hay has estimated at only £600-£700 a lot of four miniature ovoid Monart vases, for just one of which he paid £330 six years ago. And she has put a cautious £300-£400 on a Gray-Stan orange oval vase of about 1935 for which he bid £1,430 in 1990. Comeuppance? Come-on, more likely.

Parkington's squirrelled away his trophies in his marision flat in Kensington, which Ms Hay describes as "ceiling to floor with glass, glass spilling out of every cupboard, and with narrow, 16 inch pathways between the stacks of glass on the floor". When Parkington discovered Whitefriars glass in 1991, after prompting from Ms Hay, it "spread like a fungus throughout the flat" - he bought about 400 pieces in eight months.

Visitors were expected to put back his Ysart glass paperweights facing the same way, in their original ring of dust. These, with their embedded flowers, butterflies and usual textures - and the sale should push fish, were another discovery of his. He would

pay £200-£300 for a British Ysart. The 33 in the sale are estimated mostly £100-£200 or £500-£700. Watch them take off.

Another potential soaraway - Stevens and Williams "Transparent Cameo" vases of around 1900. They are acid-etched then hand-cut - the last flourish of old skills applied to new, rather than traditional, designs. The five in the sale are estimated £100-£150 to £200-£300.

Parkington had an eye for the Victoris' clever industrial processes. See whether bidders share his enthusiasm for the Apsley-Pellat "Crystallo-Ceramie" scent bottle of around 1830 containing a sulphide portrait of Queen Charlotte (£600-£1,000), the Varnish green candlesticks (about 1850) with silver-lined interiors (£400-£500), or the rare Webb "Alexandrite" specimen vase and tazza of about 1900 that is heat sensitive and changes from pink to turquoise when exposed to electric light (£100-£150).

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-581 7611). Catalogues £12, with p&p £12.80.

### INTERNET INVESTOR



### ROBIN AMLOT Home in on the Web

So you are moving. More of us arc, or so it would seem from the statistics put forward about the housing market. Moving home is one of the most stressful things you can do. Technology is supposed to make our lives easier.

So, can the technology of the Internet and the World Wide Web take some of the stress out of house-hunting and mortgage-seeking?

Maybe. As with most developments on the Internet, a glance at what is happening in the USA shows what is likely to be the way forward, Already, across the Atlantic, around 70 per cent of all residential properties up for sale are

listed on the Internet. We are not there yet. But, if you are moving some distance, the Web may be a good place to start looking before you start driving round estate agents. Even if you are intending to stay within a few miles of where you already live, it is worth checking out. It may save some petrol and footslogging.

So what's available online? The Guild of Professional Estate Agents has a site called property-platform which allows you to search by region and then by town. It then displays pages similar to those in property magazines, with photographs and brief descriptions of the properties. However, there is no de-

tailed property search facility on the site. Internet Property Finder includes most of the upmarket national agencies such as Knight Frank and Savills but carries only a limited selection of properties.

Woolwich Property Services was the first large estate agency chain to put properties on the Net. However, the Woolwich's Property Seeker again only has a selection, rather than the full range on the Woolwich's books.

Only just over a month ago, the National Association of Estate Agents launched PropertyLive. It currently has details on just over 1,000 properties out aims to carry information on 50,000 within the year. In addition, it has ambitions to link up to government databases allowing you to check outschools, hospitals and other local amenities.

There are a number of other websites which have only a few hundred properties at best. Most of the sites on the Net allow you to search their databases by several criteria: type of property (house, bungalow, flat, etc), number of bedrooms, price range and location.

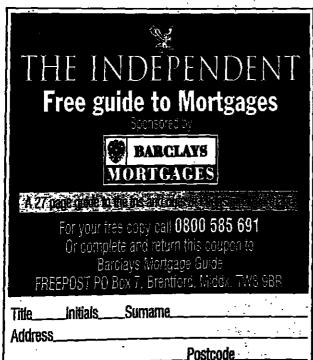
If you are looking for a property right now, you may strike it lucky and find the home of your dreams on the Web but, in all likelihood, given the limited nature of what is available at present, you probably won't. What you will get though, is an idea of what sort of house you can expect to get in the location you are looking for and for the price you can afford.

A few years into the future and the Web is likely to be the first place everybody will look for a new home, and it won't just be a case of reading how many "beds", "receps" and "bthrms". You should, quite soon, be able to take a virtual tours of properties. It won't be a computer simulation or a collection of photographs - at least one site already offers this facility - but a digital video walk-through.

Woolwich Property Services: www.wps-property-seeker.co.uk Guild of Professional Estate Agents: www.property-platform.com Internet Property Finder:

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## A well-read guide for house buyers



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9th Oct 1997

# Looking for the gold fields of eastern Europe

Investors are always looking for the new frontier, where gold nuggets lie around waiting to be picked up by the adventurous and far-sighted while their duller brethren struggle to make a living in markets which have been well-worked over.

The current search for Eldorado has switched to Russia and eastern Europe, reports Clifford

America that offered generous returns for risk-tolerant investors. Then the Mexican market collapsed. Last year the spotlight switched to Eastern Asia and the talk was all of new tigers like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines forcing their put is recovering.

way on to world markets with cheap hi-tech goods. That too ended in tears. But hope springs eternal and investors are now asking if Russia and eastern Europe will generate maximum returns for minimum risk.

Communism had many faults but it did at least ensure that Russia, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic have literate, skilled and urban labour forces, and while Russia has massive natural resources the eastern European countries have the promise of early entry to the European Community.

The transition to capitalism has been fairly bairy, with high inflation, rising unemployment and falling output, unpaid wages, piecemeal privatisations and uncertainty over who has legal title to many assets. Things are still quite chaotic but some sort of order does seem to be emerging. Inflation is coming down, public sector deficits are coming under control and out-

Stock market values are still tiny in relation to the annual output of the economies and dear in relation to company profits, they are cheap relative to the assets which back them.

But not everything is simple or easy. While the Moscow and Budanest markets have been soaring in the past year, average market prices in Warsaw. Prague and Bratislava are exactly where they were three years ago. Setbacks can be sudden, sharp and out of all proportion to the fundamentals. Something quite minor and ap-

parently irrelevant can trigger heavy selling. Political, social, legal and economic risks are far greater than at home. There is a large criminal element among the nouveaux riches entrepreneurs especially in Russia, who think nothing of using fraud and extortion rather than technolog-

ical and managerial expertise. Buying shares in individual

companies is a mug's game, but the first trust accessible to small even though most markets are by Save & Prosper. The minimum investment is £2,000 or £35 a month. It will invest initially in up to seven separate markets across the region with a maximum of 30 per cent in Russia.

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At any one time you would have to pay 5.5 per cent more to buy units than the price you would get for reselling, and there is an annual charge of 1.5 per cent a year plus expenses, initially a touch over 0.25 per cent. But there is always the hope that these markets will come good in a big way, and rewards as well as charges will be substantially greater, far greater, than the more sedate western markets could deliver.

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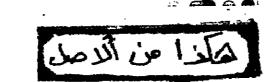
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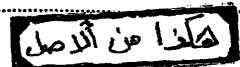
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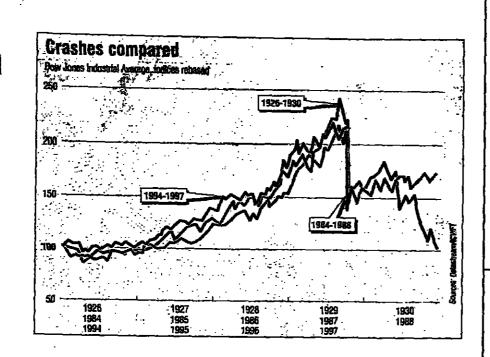






THE JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

# When the Dow peak?



One week to go to the 10th anniversary of the stock market crash of 1987, and even the chairman of the Federal Reserve seems determined not to let the anniversary pass without reminding us once more - and with justice - of the limits of rationality in the stock market.

Ten months ago Alan Greenspan caused a nasty bout of jitters in the markets by warning investors of the dangers of "irrational exuberance". Whatever his intentions, the warning has done little since to stop the market in its tracks. The Dow Jones index is up 25.5 per cent so far this year, after 26 per cent last year.

For much of this year the world's most powerful central banker has seemed on occasions to be flirting instead with the market bulls, debating out loud whether there is any evidence to support the view that something new and profound - a "paradigm shift", in the current market parlance - has taken place in the US economy to justify keeping share prices so high.

Has the rapid spread of microchip technology over the last few years made the business cycle redundant? After six be mentally knocking around 20 per cent outcome that none of them desires. The vears of expansion in the US economy, some would like to think so. Has there been an unprecedented step change in the productivity of American business? There is not much evidence of it in the standard numbers, but something must explain why unemployment continues to fall so sharply without yet rekindling inflation. Or is it simply that the great inflation bogey of the post-war years has been slain once and for all?

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That would certainly help to explain why long-term interest rates, which ultimately drive share price values, continue to fall, and why markets continue to take such a benign view of the future.

Look, for example at the prices of the index-linked bonds which the US government has started to sell to investors for the first time this year. According to BZW, the break-even inflation rate on the latest issue is a little over 3 per cent: in other words, the inflation guarantee that the bonds provide relative to conventional bonds will prove redundant only if average inflation remains below that figure over the next five years. Such calculations

years ago, so rapidly have inflation expectations changed.

Yet, testifying this week to the House of Representatives Budget Committee. Mr Greenspan wisely reverted to his previous stance, observing that; "Financial markets seem to have priced in an optimistic outlook, characterised by a significant reduction in risk and an increasingly benevolent inflation process."

He added that it was "unrealistic" for investors to expect a repeat performance of the dramatic surge in Wall Street which has been seen over the past two years. His argument was that demand for labour is growing so fast at a time when unemployment is already so low that the point when either economic growth or inflation has to give cannot be far away.

Either way it must eventually re-bound into lower share price valuations. That does not mean there has to be another crash to allow the markets' rosy view of the world to come back into line with underlying economic reality. A sudden 20-25 per cent fall in share prices, like 10 years ago, is just one option: it could be, and with any luck will be, a far more - what is called the fallacy of composition: gradual process. But it may do no harm how a collection of individuals, each actto prepare yourself for such an event. The prudent, I would suggest, should already of the value of their shareholdings to get a fairer feeling for their worth.

It may be no accident that Goldman Sachs, probably the most powerful of all the American investment banks, has been circulating a graph which shows how uncannily the market's performance over the last three years has tracked that of the market in both 1926-29 (the three years which preceded the 1929 market crash) and 1984-87 (the three years running up to the crash of 10 years ago). The Financial Times carried a similar graph earlier this week, and neatly summarised the main economic reasons why the bull market has now run ahead of all realistic expectations of what the economy, on which the stock market's value

ultimately depends, can deliver. The main question investors face is what they can, or need to, do about it all. Sell all your shares in the hope of buying them back later more cheaply? No, that would be a quite exaggerated response. As I have said before, the markets may well go higher before they do eventually correct: irrationality by definition

would have seemed outlandish even five is unbounded, and history suggests that smart investors make their money by riding the buil waves when they happen, and not trying to second-guess the turning points. The corollary is: don't panic when the setbacks happen.

Better is to keep a sense of proportion. In retrospect, the 1987 crash, unlike its counterpart in 1929, was something of a red herring. The market, having overreached itself, simply resumed its long upward trend from a new and more realistic hase. There was no underlying change in economic circumstances to justify a permanent change in market valuations, as there was in both 1929 and 1974.

With luck we are in the same boat now as we were in 1984, rather than in the other cases. What we do understand now a lot better than we did before is how market crashes occur. Reflecting on the lessons of the South Sea Bubble in the early 18th century, Sir Isaac Newton said: "I can calculate the motions of the heavenly bodies, but not the madness of people."

Modern social science has allowed us a greater insight into the irrationality of collective behaviour. We now understand ing rationally by their own lights, can nevertheless, collectively, produce an standard example is a fire in a cinema: if everyone tries to be first to reach the exit at the same time the result can be catastrophic. This is very much what seemed to happen in 1987, when computer-driven portfolio insurance programmes encouraged an ordinary market downturn to develop into a self-feeding downward spiral.

Mr Greenspan knows well that the world's stock markets are large and dynamic networks driven each day by millions of independent individual decisions No computer system can begin to model what the collective effect of these individual decisions is likely to be: the process is iterative rather than linear. The truth is that financial markets are

inherently volatile and unstable. That is why we will go on having market booms and crashes - and why reason can only ever take you part of the way towards formulating a coherent investment strategy. The final paradox may be that the more people accept that cycles of overvaluation and crash are inevitable (as in 1987), the less likely they in fact become.

### MUTUALS PAY OUT

## Windfall bonanza from Down Under

to do with their windfalls, a new bonanza is opening up for holders of policies with mutual insurance companies.

Next week 1.1 million Scottish Amicable members will get almost £1,000 from the Prudential's successful bid for the company in February. About £550 will be cash and the balance will be added to policies.

In mid-January an estimated 171,000 holders of policies with London Life and Australian Mutual Provident will get an average of £3,000 in free

holders are still wondering what voting in next month's special meeting back the society's conversion into a limited company.

Policyholders will receive a voting form to send back by 18 November. If the vote is carried. eligible policyholders, which means those with current policies on 11 December last year and 10 September this year, will receive a minimum 100 shares.

money they have contributed and the length of time the policy has been running. AMP's advisers believe the

equivalent of 470p each if they were trading now, so the minimum windfall will be £470. The maximum could reach £8,000.

took the money was 43 per cent.

The low cost

The shares will begin trading on the Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges around the middle of next year. One important detail is still missing. There are no plans to have them quoted in London, They will also get extra and no proposals to set up a dealing service for UK investors shares based on the amount of who would prefer cash. Last month the proportion of Northern Rock shareholders who

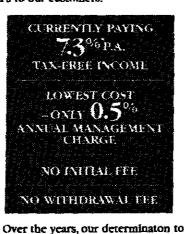
While Northern Rock share- shares if 75 per cent of members shares would be worth the A similar proportion of AMP shareholders might prefer cash upfront. AMP may have to buy back up to half its UK members' shares at a cost of £250m, or seek a London listing.

AMP wants to expand in the UK and sees a share quote as a way of funding acquisitions through a share offer or a rights issue. One can buy and sell Australian and New Zealand shares priced in local dollars here in the UK but the shares would be more marketable here if they were actually listed in London and priced in pounds sterling. - Clifford German

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### Share in an instant portfolio

companies reduces the risks associated with buying shares, for those that do well will, one hopes, make up for those that do not. However, it is important to remember that it does not eliminate the risk. If the stock market generally falls so does the value of a portfolio.

Because of minimum charges for buying and selling. small individual shareholdings are not an economic proposition. The minimum investment should ideally be £2.000. However, there is a way of securing an instant portiolio: a unit trust.

The concept is simple. Investors funds are pooled and divided into a number of units, each investor receiving a number of units in proportion to their investment. Typically, an equity-based trust will invest in the shares of 50 to 100 companies with no single holding exceeding 10 per cent of the fund.

Professional investment managers decide which shares to sell and which to add to the shareholding, with the aim of achieving the trust's objective. This may be to maximise income, the growth in value of the units, or a combination of the two. The investments are held in the name of an independent trustee (hence the name unit trust) who is responsible for ensuring there is no foul play.

Unit trust managers generally cover their expenses and make their profits in two ways. The "initial charge" is added to the price at which investors buy units from the unit trust managers. There is also an annual management charge, up to 1.5 per cent of the total value.

There are over 1,500 unit trusts in the UK. They are divided into a number of categories according to their aims and the geographic area in which the funds are invested. For example, there are trusts which just invest in the UK with a view to achieving growth. income or a com- A pack on unit trust investment Others invest internationally. Some trusts are far riskier

For this reason, first-time

Investing in a broad range of sider more general unit trusts such as "balanced" or "managed" funds which invest in bonds and cash as well as shares. Alternatively. consideration should be given to "tracker" funds which invest in the 100 largest companies in the UK

As Anne McMeehan of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) states: "Unit trusts are absolutely ideal for the novice investor." However. do remember that not all unit trusts perform the same. Past performance tables are found in Money Management and What Investment?, available monthly from the larger newsagents.

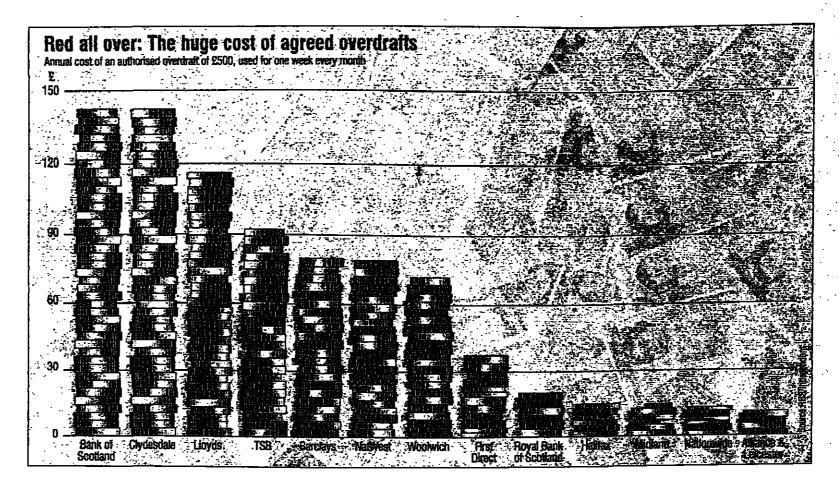
The tables show how much an initial investment of £1,000, made at different periods in the past, is worth today if its net income has been reinvested. Ideally pick a fund which shows a consistent performance over all periods - and the longer the better. Do not pay too much attention to those which have done well in the past year as this may be a fluke.

Also, do not be influenced by the excellent performance of a trust in a different category to the one at which you were originally looking, as it could be a riskier investment and not meet your requirements. Never forget that past performance is no guarantee of the future. The previous day's buying

and selling prices, as well as yields - which is the pre-tax income expressed as a percentage of the previous day's buying price - are published in The Independent. Most trusts have a minimum investment of £500 or £1,000. It is often possible to invest a regular sum each month. Payments start from £30 to £50. Spreading the acquisition in this way is an excellent way of making a first step into the stock market.

— John Andrew

is available from Autif. It includes the 'User's Handbook', giving guidance on how investors should select a trust and also contains a glossary of investors should only con- terms. Call 0181-207 1361.



# Overdraft battle on the high street

Once upon a time, you simply accepted that the price of going overdrawn, even if by agreement, would be a whopping rate of interest plus an additional monthly fee of anything up to £10.

Today, that picture is changing. But some customers will pay a heavier price, as Andrew Verity reports.

"Royal Bank of Scotland unleashes guerrilla assault on 'harbingers of doom' - shock." Though the headlines were not quite as dramatic as the one above, the bank's recent initiative on overdrafts marks a new stage in the battle for

The attack on so-called "harbingers of doom" was aimed at senior bankers from Clydesdale Bank, RBS's local rivals, whose own soothsayers are forecasting the demise of free banking within the next few years.

Royal Bank disagrees. Instead of accepting defeat on this front, it has taken its fight for free banking into territory dear to the hearts of students, loss-making small businessmen and recent divorcees: overdraft fees. From 1 December, all account holders have

the chance to slip comfortably into overdraft with no arrangement fee or monthly service charge -just a relatively reasonable rate of interest. 1.25 per cent a month.

monthly fee - usually between £5 and £8 - still levied by most big banks on customers who go overdrawn, even when by agreement.

Pressing home the assault, the bank noted that for an authorised overdraft of £500 which is used for one week every month, Lloyds Bank will take charges is that banks regard unauthorised over-£116 from its customer, Barclays charges £80 and NatWest charges £79. Bank of Scotland believes it deserves a grand £142 for the service.

Royal Bank of Scotland will take a mere £20.71 - only beaten by Midland with £15. Andy Marchant, head of current accounts at

RBS, says: "Those who have forecast the end of free banking have completely misread the situation. Increased competition within the industry means that customers are receiving an even better deal.

"Most of our customers operate their current account within an agreed overdraft limit. We are recognising those customers who conduct their current account in a responsible manner and they will greatly benefit from our new policy."

Royal Bank's move runs against the grain of a convention in banking which is captured in the saying, "Owe a banker £5 and you are at his mercy: owe him £500m and he is at yours."

Traditionally, banks do not mind losing customers with piffling, unprofitable debts: if those customers stay, the interest paid may not cover the cost of servicing the overdraft. So they charge high rates of interest and levy fees for the administration work of confirming the over-

Even in Royal Bank's case, this approach has not been entirely abandoned. It has financed part of its cost-cutting by boosting fees for unauthorised overdrafts. These have charges which sound more familian fees of £15 a month. Interest is nearly double that of an authorised overdraft The biggest change lies in the scraping of a at 2.45 per cent, or a whopping 29.4 per cent APR a year. NatWest will hit savers with a £50 initial fee, interest at 33.8 per cent APR and a frightening daily fee of £3.50.

Other banks penalise unauthorised overdrafts in similar fashion. The reasoning behind the high

drafts as an irritation.

They present a greater risk to the bank because they can no longer have confidence that their customers will not draw more than a preagreed amount. So every single transaction has to be monitored. Instead of a note on a computer file, the bank has to waste staff time in monitoring the accounts.

Lesson: get it authorised. If a similar overdraft has been arranged before, a simple telehone call will usually suffice.

Banks with high charges for authorised overdrafts have mounted something of a defence to the guerrilla tactics of Royal Bank and Midland. They point to what has become known as the 'pink" or "buffer" zone, an automatic overdraft, usually of £100, which does not need to be authorised and involves no fees.

A spokeswoman for Lloyds TSB adds: \*Charges and interest relating to overdrafts do not affect most customers as 70 per cent never

Overdrafts are a flexible form of borrowing which allow customers to dip in and out. Thecharges should be seen in the context of overall packages which include free in-credit banking and access to thousands of branches and ATMs across the country."

Here, Royal Bank is again injecting fresh competition into retail banking. Last week, it became the first traditional bank to offer its customers access to any of the 22,000 cash machines across the UK - free of charge.

So what lies behind this sudden burst of com-

The answer lies in a fresh injection of enernumber of new companies. Just when you thought the banking sector had been reduced

to four - Lloyds TSB, Midland, NatWest and Barclays - new players are rushing in.

Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Abbey National, Northern Rock and others have entered the sector. Fresh from making themselves popular by converting billions of pounds of members' funds into cash handouts, they mean business. One in four current accounts are now held not with the traditional providers.

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Instead monthly wages go into the former building societies or Midland's telephone banking arm. Even those which have stayed as mutual building societies, such as Nationwide, are fighting for the same business.

A quick look at the overdraft fees of the new banks casts a fresh light on Royal Bank's initiatives: it only looks cheap next to some of its traditional rivals. For an overdraft of £500 one week a month for a year, the same example as above, Halifax will charge just £15.47. Abbey National only wants £12.95. Alliance & Leicester has whittled it down to the cheapest rate of all -£10.96 (see table above).

But even the new banks will not take kindly to customers who bust their limits. If a customer incurred a £500 unauthorised overdraft for one week a month, Halifax would hit him or her for £222.10 over the year.

The traditional banks are trying to fight back without further painful cost-cutting by offering enhanced service. Rather than slashing overdraft fees, Barclays prefers to do something which it points out could benefit all customers. It is piloting a new type of quarterly bank statement, tailored to each individual customer, to show all of their financial arrangements - mortgages, life assurance, pensions and credit cards - at a glance. gy to the banking sector - and a mushrooming So long as these arrangements are laid on by Barclays, of course. The big four high-street banks are determined, it seems, to fight back.

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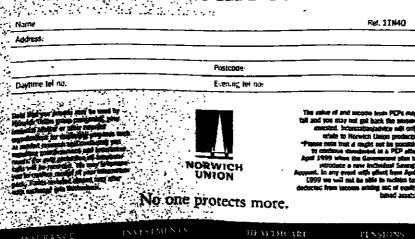
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### Pension policies for women

Government to set up a permanent telephone helpline providing advice for women on pensions after its own helpline was swamped by more than 100.000 calls in its first week.

The line was kept open for a second week but only about

The TUC is calling on the 2,000 calls a week could be dealt

For the TUC's factsheets. send a large stamped addressed envelope to: TUC Women and Pensions Factsheets, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS.

-Clifford German

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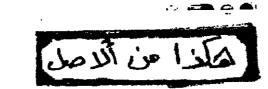
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# So you want to be a venture capitalist

The best-performing venture capital nvestment trust over the past five years is managed by Foreign & Colonial. So, as it happens, is the worst. Confused? Paul Slade has the answers.

F&C's Enterprise Trust at the end of August 1992, that money would now be worth £5,295. If on the other hand, you had plumped for the same sector's East German trust - also managed by F&C - your £1,000 would now be worth just £180.

In fact, F&C took over the collapsing trust from German fund managers Ermagassen and is currently running it "for realisation". In other words, F&C has the thankless task of trying to extract what little cash remains for shareholders before winding up the trust altogether.

But these twin examples neatly sum up the two extremes of venture capital investment. Get it right, and the rewards are high - the top UK general investment trust's equivalent return was just £3,311. But get it wrong, and the results are disastrous.

F&C Ventures managing director James Nelson, who manages the Enterprise trust, wys: "It's a different form of risk. We manage a more concentrated portfolio, so you haven't got as much diversification. But the other side of the coin is that we're investing in companies where we have direct contact with the managers and continuing monitoring

throughout." The Enterprise trust invests in about 60 companies, with its largest 10 stakes accounting for about 60 per cent of funds

under management. attached to venture capital established or conventional westment led the last govern- funds, and are looking for ent to create a string of investment vehicles designed to the edge.

F&C Enterprise

give tax breaks on money going into risky start-ups or expanding companies. The most recent of these schemes, created in 1993, is the venture capital

But VCTs, like Business Expansion Schemes before them. were soon hedged round with all sorts of guarantees and clever financial gimmicks which meant well-off investors could get all the tax breaks at little or If you had put £1,000 into no risk. In his own first Budget, on 2 July, Gordon Brown announced that a crackdown on the schemes would take effect immediately, even though the new rules themselves will not be announced until next spring.

David Oliver, a tax partner at accountants Arthur Andersen, says: "We know that there are new rules coming in, and we know that we're in them already. We just don't know what they are.

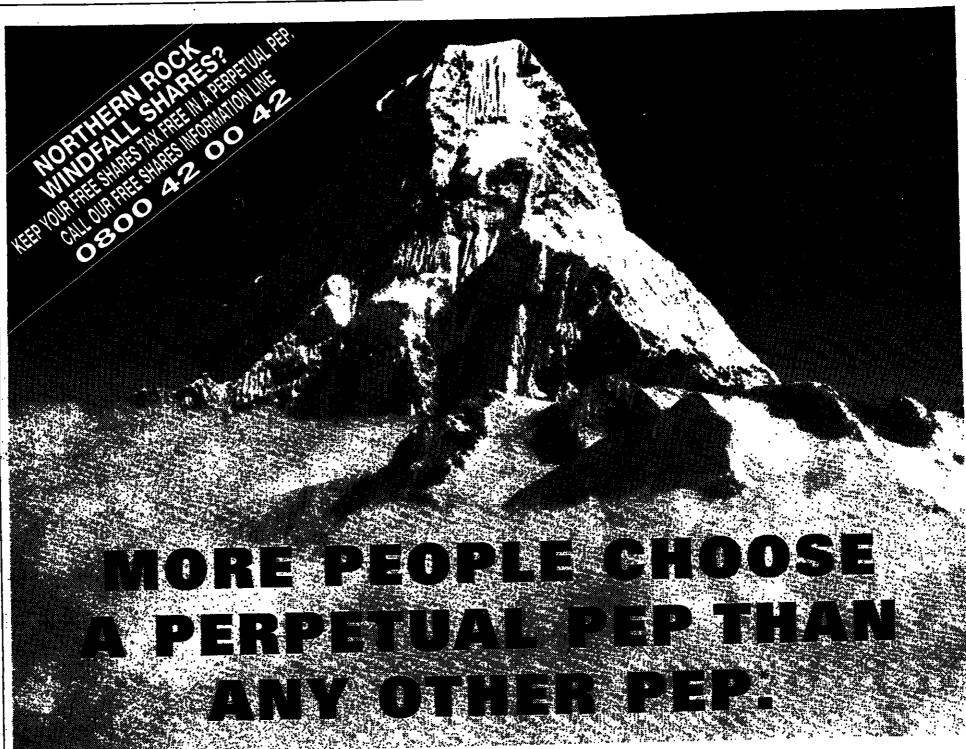
Until the details emerge, Oliver's advice is to consider only those VCTs which have no outside underwriting or any form of guarantee. "It's got to be genuine risk capital money and, therefore, money which people can afford to lose," he says. "VCIs are really for the serious investor who has got significant assets. If I had £200,000 that I wanted to invest I might part, say, 10 per cent into a VCT if £20,000 was all I had, I wouldn't put it in this sort of thing."

Other forms of venture capital investment, however, may be suitable for a small part of even the most modest investor's portfolio. In Nelson's own fund - which has a savings scheme starting at £25 a month - small investors now account for about 20 per cent of funds, against just 5 per cent two or three years.

Nelson says: "I think some people have got to the stage in assembling their portfolio, whether it's through PEPs or monthly savings schemes, where they've got all the more something a little bit extra on

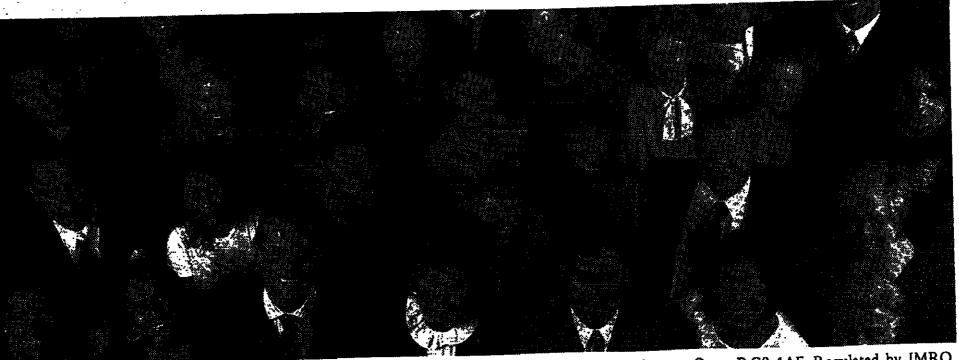


Coronation Street's Matthew Marsden won the best newcomer award this week. Sanctuary Music Productions (see below), whose parent company won the backing of a venture capital trust, hopes to launch him next on a career as a singer. Photograph: Granada



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Candover	£3,550	Radiotrust	£1,903
Electra	£3,326	East German	£180
UK general investme	ent trusts		
Top Three		Bottom Three	
Finsbury Trust	£3,311	Edinburgh LK Tracker	£2,308
	£3,275	Edinburgh Investment	£2,179
Liercury Keystone Finsbury Growth	£2,912	Murray Split Capital	£1,926
Pertonnance over five year \$1,000 invested, not income	rs to August 29, me re-invested.	, 1997, 	ce: MoneyFacts

## Taking AIM for higher returns

The whole point of venture capital investment is to benefit from the fast growth of the fledgling companies which may

become tomorrow's giants. One company whose growth has been made possible by just such investment is Sanctuary Music Productions, home of acts like Love City Groove and Alexander O'Neal. SMP forms joint-venture record labels with talent scouts in a variety of pop music genres. The talent scouts find the acts, and SMP

The company took a listing on the Alternative Investment ioes the rest. Market (AIM) earlier this year, following its parent group successfully raising cash through a VCT AIM is a market which allows smaller companies to raise funds from investors with fewer of the formal obstacles presented by a full Stock Exchange listing. Like other forms of venture capital investment, AIM's potentially higher returns come only at the

SMP's major shareholder is its parent group, which owns cost of higher risk. 60 per cent of the company. Institutions such as Invesco and Framlington also have a holding. Individual small investors

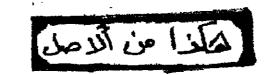
own somewhere between 10 per cent and 15 per cent. Sanctuary Group finance director Mike Miller says: "There are some wealthy individuals involved who we've met along the way. But there are also some private punters who came in, presumably because it's something a bit more interest-

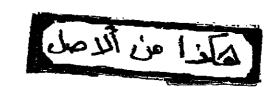
ing than a widget manufacturer." The company's share price on AIM stood at 65.5p on launch, peaked at 75.5p and has since been hovering in the 67.5p to 70p range for the past couple of months. "We're

Many small companies unit or investment trusts include slowly building," says Miller. a few AIM shares. The SMP shares held by Framlington, for example, form part of the company's Framlington 1,000 Smallest Companies investment trust, which shows growth of 952 per cent over the past five years, placing it at number 19 in a sector of 43 trusts.

# 8/UNIT TRUSTS









The School House at Addington, Buckinghamshire has a 12ft 6ins kitchen with a one-and-a-half bowl white Shires sink, with mixer tap and limed oak units. There's a Bosch hob and Smeg double oven. The five-bedroom converted school house has a double beight 33ft drawing room with the original school bell tower above. There is half an acre of gardens backing on to open countryside. Knight Frank is asking £400,000 (01865 790077).



Pont-y-Mwnywr Cottages at Llanferres, Denbighshire is a pair of cottages - one with two bedrooms, one with three, on the banks of the River Alyn 18 miles from Chester. The kitchens in both have Burler-style sinks with ash wood drainers to each side. The first cottage also has a cream oil-fired Aga and, in the drawing room, a wood-burning stove. Cottage two has a wood-panelled drawing room. Outside, there is a sunken terraced rose garden. Price for the pair is £225,000 says Strutt & Parker (01244 320747).



Smithy Cottage near Blandford Forum in Dorset has a 13ft kitchen fitted with wooden-tronted units, double-bowl stainless steel sink unit and built-in hob, fridge and double oven. There is a water softener for drinking water, wine store and walk-in larder. The thatched four-bedroom house has a wood burning stove in the sitting room, an office/studio and triple garage. For sale through GA Town & Country for £235,000 (01258 453711).

### THAT WAS THEN. THIS IS NOW

# Searching for a little place in the country? Good luck

emand is once again high for cottages in the Home Counties but, as Penny Jackson discovers, quality, location and amenities are key factors in successful sales, and the second-home/commuting lifestyle is not to everyone's taste

A Home Counties estate agent the other day was lamenting the fact that he had to turn down a cash buyer for his own house because he could find nothing he liked. In his frustration, he said, he could understand why someone would pay well over the asking price when the right house finally came

But these inflated prices are not typical of the country market as a whole but rather an extension of the demand from London for period family homes.

They go for high prices because there aren't many of them and the competing buyers are probably using the proceeds of a London sale or can even afford to buy out of their salaries. If you are selling a Georgian rectory you could be excused from believing that there's a property boom. Other people see a rather more cautious market,

Take an area like the South Hams in Devon, for instance. Normally October is a busy period as people return after the summer having decided to move there per manently or to buy a second home.

However, Madeline Marchand of Marc-† nd Petit, is seeing a great deal of activify but not many deals. The story is familiar - nobody, it seems, wants to take second best. "If the market were really buoyant and strong, they would," she says. "Whether it's roses round the door, a lovely apartment, or simply good parking, virtually no one will compromise whether it is a second or main home. Only the waterside properties have really jumped ahead. Generally Devon has

not returned to its Eighties peak." So what has happened to the fortunes of the small country cottage, the second homes that were snapped up like trophies during the Eighties? In the Cotswolds, tra-



Mary Humphries' cottage in Kingston Lisle, Oxfordshire: she and her family are finally packing up after II years

Photograph: John Lawrence

home-owner, Diane Mearns of Hamptons still the maximum most want to pay.

"If people pay a lot for a second home, you usually find they spend a great deal more time there than just weekends and they may only have a flat in London," she

they were on second homes and would International, sees £100,000 to £150,000 as rather spend more on their main house."

> tershire when she was single. Now, 10 years on and with two children she is selling.

"You have to be regimented if you are but he never came up with the money."

ditionally prime territory for the second says. "Families are not as keen, though, as to get the most out of the weekend, but it Every summer estate agents are inundatwas always worth it. A local girl looked after my horse which she would hand to me Sue Bond bought her 18th-century as I gave her the baby." Her cottage, on the weaver's cottage in Sheepscombe, Glouces-market with Hamptons for £125,000, ear-

lier became the target of a fantasy buyer. "Surveys were done, time dragged on,

ed with holiday-makers who say they want a permanent bolthole. Many fall by the wayside, but those who remain enamoured with the idea could do worse than buy now.

John D Wood's Newbury office finds list. "They know exactly where they want to be," says Nick Hole-Jones.

"Second home owners often use a small cottage as a toy for five years to test the water. They then might be somewhere larger or move into the country permanently. But they are very specific - quiet lanes, a pub, preferably a free house with decent food, and a small store."

Indeed, a two-bedroom thatched cottage with a small kitchen and inglenook fireplace is a romantic retreat until babies have to be accommodated. Mary Humphries and her husband have had their listed cottage in Kingston Lisle, Oxfordshire for 11 years, but now can't face the upheaval at weekends. "We tend to be more homebased these days. We will miss the walks and the village life but there does come a time with children when packing up the car on a Friday becomes more fraught even though it's an easy journey.'

Perhaps the area that has seen the sharpest recovery in demand for cottages is Norfolk, specifically along the north coast. It has long been regarded as good value for money and since London prices have shot up, so has the competition hotted up for the limited supply of traditional brick and flint cottages.

Michael Bedford, from the Burnham Market office of Bedfords, has an unprecedented nil supply on his books. "The last small cottage we had for sale had three people fighting over it. We have seen some crazy prices. A cottage on the market for £95,000 went well over the asking price in the end. People will wait for years for the right kind of cottage in a good location."

Generally, though, cottages which have risen in price by a modest 8 to 10 per cent in the last year have not kept pace with the increases of country houses of at least 20 per cent. Estate agents witnessing the inflated prices paid for family homes believe the potential of cottages with land are being overlooked. "If I were moving to the country that is exactly where I would be buying now," says Nick Hole-Jones.

Mary Humphries' cottage is for sale through commutability at the top of a buyer's wish John D Wood, Newbury office at a guide price

## How to make fame come knocking at your (exquisite Georgian) door

Fancy having Naomi Campbell round your house and getting paid for it? For some, this is more than just a dream - as long as they are prepared to accept scores of other people also trailing through their homes on a location shoot. Ginetta Vedrickas takes out clapperboard

Dave Bates did have Naomi round as a house guest but sadly - he wasn't the attraction: his Chiswick house was. For Bates lives in a Norman Shaw designed home built in 1878. Since registering his prop-

erty with Lavish Locations his home has been used as a backdrop for commercials, television dramas and photo shoots. Production companies particularly like his 40ft by 20ft room at the top of the house which is more like a city loft.

Bates is proud of his home but claims to be unimpressed by stars. "I'm in the music ousiness and know people like that anyway."

Mr and Mrs average may be more starstruck but would anyone want to film inside their home? Luke Jackson of Location Works says they would. "We look for anything from a smart kitchen for an Oxo ad to a bog standard one for Bold. It depends what we need. We're looking for a flat with a rubbish chute coming out of it but haven't found one yet."

Margaret at the Location Company echoes the notion that an ordinary property can be as sought after as a stately home but admits: "We do like large, aspirational properties with clean lines, wooden floors and preferably within the M25, but it's not just yuppie flats, we need boring little semis with privet hedges as well."

She warns that whatever type of home you have, space is vital. Film crews, photographic equipment and possibly caterers need room to manocuvre. All agencies are loath to accept anywhere that appears cluttered.

But using your house as a location may not win you neighbour of the year award. Jackson cautions: "We tell clients to speak to their neighbours before filming starts. Otherwise people wake up at 7am to a street full of trucks, lights and generator going and think, 'What the bloody hell's that?"

Miles Ridley, who lives opposite the Greenwich house where the Mrs Merton gas board ad was filmed recently, was incensed to find lights and a crew outside his window as he tried to eat lunch. "No, I wasn't



deeply honoured by the whole experience. In fact I was tempted to go out and have, as Mrs Merton would say, a heat-

Because of past problems, the London Borough of Greenwich employs a film locations officer who liaises between anyone wanting to film and residents. Harvey Edgington took up his post after filming of The Krays caused inhabitants of a tiny street in a conservation area immense difficulties

ed debate."

with night shooting and severe parking congestion.

"Some people thought it was the best thing ever, others weren't too impressed at finding their front doors painted a different colour when they got home. Film crews now speak directly to me if they want the street lights off or bins collected that day."

In Greenwich, residents approach the borough direct. Officers take photos of your home for a database which film companies can look at. Edgington negotiates fees, including one

pany and the resident. Most agencies ask people interested in having their homes used for locations to ring before sending in photos. When an agency accepts photos of your home, details go on to a database for production companies to choose from. It's free to register but agencies charge between 10 and 15 per cent com-

for the borough, and draws up

the contract between the com-

mission if your home is used. Sadly there are no perks for

neighbours but for those whose homes are used the financial rewards can be great if you don't mind disruption. Major film companies can pay up to £2,000 a day to film inside your home.

Agencies give guidelines but it's up to you what to accept. For stills photography the fees are less but so is the disruption. Bates finds this a more attractive option: "I was offered £5,000 for a crew to film for five

days but it meant 70 people trailing through my house daily. I know what film crews are like and the damage to walls and carpets it would mean so I

Castle

Howard,

setting for

Revisited<sup>a</sup>

Andrews

and Jeremy

irons – but

there is also

humbie film

locations

a market

for more

Brideshead

with Antony

said 'No way'." All agencies admit that damage is common. Lights get dropped on carpets and furniture is dented.

Agencies should make sure that the company filming in your home has adequate oublic liability insurance. If things go horribly wrong they must be

able to compensate homeowners fully.

For most people things don't go wrong and nearly all are keen to loan their homes again. If you live in a large "aspirational" loft space in London you could find yourself very popular. But if the only remarkable feature of your home is a rubbish chute you may be luckier than you think.

Location Works 0171-494 0888; The Location Company 0171-637 7766; Lavish Locations 0181-742 2992; Location Wise 0171-603 5454; LB Greenwich Film Locations 0181-312 5662

#### So you wanna be in movies?

Speak to an agency first to see what they are looking

Send in a variety of photos making sure to emphasise space and avoiding clutter.

Decide if you are prepared to risk a film crew or prefer stills shoots only.

Check that any company using your home is adequately insured.

Warn your neighbours about any filming.

# 10/PROPERTY

THE KITCHEN SINK

# What the butler never saw

Cappuccino is to the kitchen a sink made from granite. The sink what avocado is to the bath-coloured quartz crystals are room suite. So if you are the ground and bonded with 20 per owner of a muddy beige sink, cent acrylic resin, then, during you are seriously out of date.

It could even affect your chances of getting the best the sink as hard as rock. price when selling your property. Almost every survey by eslenders puts a designer-name kitchen at the top of a buyer's price and garage. It's one of the grey and oatmeal-and-white. few improvements that pays for itself when you come to sell (unlike double glazing, or redecorating in neutral shades).

According to the latest issue of Which? a new kitchen is one of the few house improvements to add value to a property. It is, after all, off-putting to view a house where the sink looks as though it's used regularly for cleaning paint brushes.

It may sound silly to regard the humble kitchen sink as a fashion statement. But it's no accident that estate agents throw in as many high-profile brand names as possible in sales details. Buyers like to. matches stainless steel cupthink they're getting a classy boards and cookers. Prices start product - even better, an ex- at £195 for a small bowl and rise pensive fitting that they haven't to £415 for a two bowl compaid for themselves.

Carron Phoenix in Falkirk, Scotland, is one of Europe's leaders of kitchen sink dramatis personae. One of their top of the range products sounds like a fitting Fred and Wilma Flintstone might have bragged about to their Stone Age neighbours: manufacture, the crystals are forced to the surface, making

Dropping pots in it, pouring boiling water over it and clattate agencies and mortgage tering cutlery around in it will not cause stains or chips, the makers claim. It comes in a must-have list, after location, range of colours including slate In Savills' most recent sur-

vey of buyers, stainless steel was the most favoured kitchen sink finish. Polished Metal Products - which also produce the more traditional fireclay French farmhouse sinks - have just launched a new range of Soft Option stainless steel sinks, inspired by a Canadian design. They have an unusual, rolled edge which fits snugly under the surrounding surface and creates a waterproof seal.

Currently the hot favourite of developers fitting out highpriced warehouse conversions, the professional cook look bination. Matching taps by Asquith, Philippe Starck and Diverso of Italy will add up to another £241, depending on finish and style.

Franke (another estate agent buzz-word) have exploited the demand for purified Prices start at £347. The com-



Added value: research shows that a fine kitchen is one of four major factors affecting the saleability of a house after location, price and garage. Here, the Artisan Kitchen, by John Lewis of Hungerford

purification system.

The Triflow comes with a range of taps, including porcelain and Corian, to match the work surface. They also come in the currently popular pewter. and a two-tone nickel and gold.

tap with an integrated water fect for kitchens that have been start at £58 a metre, plus VAT squeezed into oddly shaped conversions, start at around

Bald UK make a range of integrated sink and worktops, which is handy if you want to replace the whole top of the unit without fiddling about cutting water by producing a three-way pany's corner sink designs, per- into an existing worktop. Prices

from America. They still look But some people will always right for the period and come be unimpressed by high-tech sink think, and go for the tradat £245 plus VAT. itional Belfast or butler sink. The kitchen maker John Lewis

of Hungerford says that the real

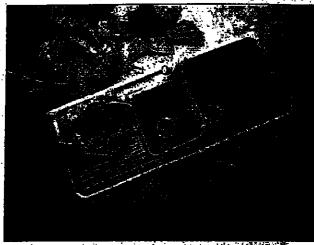
Brass and Traditional Sinks, which make traditional farmhouse, enamelled fireclay sinks, Belfast sinks are too big and im- have developed French designs practical, so he imports cast-iron to suit the UK market. They a cupboard built around a sinks, coated in white enamel, also designed the New Yorker butler sink by Armitage Shanks.

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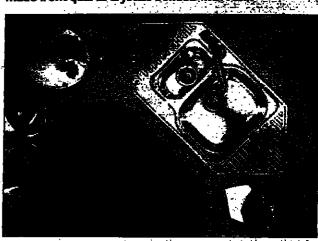
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Stone Age chic: Carron Phoenix's 'granite' sinio a made from quartz crystals bonded with n



Cornered: Franke, ever popular with estate agents, produce a neat design for a limited space

- a double-bowl fireclay sink - The top and interiors are oat for the American market, but it the drawer pulls solid brass. A works just as well in a British kitchen. The French Farmhouse starts at £218, the New Yorker delivery. As it is all freeat £371. All the taps are British

Having spent a small fortune on your sink, you may find it painful to leave it behind when you move. But the Herefordin three different sizes, starting shire firm Berrington have made it possible to take everything and the kitchen sink. Their Classic English range is custom-built, free-standing kitchen furniture and includes

piece like this costs £1,089, including taps but not including standing and fully finished, you don't need to have it fitted. Apart from any electrical and plumbing connections, the furnîture is loose, so you can take

Carron Phoenix (01324 638 321); Polished Metal Products (01291 650455); Brass & Traditional Sinks (01291 650738); Bald UK (01933 225985); Franke (0161-436 6280);

P. j.

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# How the hard facts undermine the case for 'cut-price' loans

Nothing could be simpler that choosing a mortgage. You simply pick the lender offering the best interest rates on the market, right? Wrong: as Nic Cicutti explains, taking out a loan involves more than opting for the lowest headline rate.

The past few years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of different mortages available to borrowers. Barely a week passes without at least 100 new loans hitting the market, re- £395, while a handful have placing offers – some available for only a few days - considered defunct by lenders.

Choosing between them has become a lottery, a problem ompounded by the proliferaon of deals where the small print becomes more important than the key advantages of what is on offer.

It is no surprise that many borrowers, both first-time buyers and - perhaps surprisingly - those seeking to re-mortgage are tempted by headline rates.

These are the "teaser" advertisements that promise an ultra-low annual percentage rate (APR) to borrowers. Yet any- es five-year redemption charges one who wanders blindly into the maze could find themselves paying heavily for that special deal. Before deciding on the loan, there are several points to

The first is that APRs, the supposedly cast-iron mechanism for telling whether one rate in cash). What tends to emerge from another, may be no such thing. For example, many slightly higher rate for that lenders calculate their APRs on cashback."

the assumption that the borrower will not necessarily revert director at Barclays Mortgages, to a standard variable rate at the end of the fixed or discounted period.

The result has been mountwhatever figure they like in respect of what they assume borrowers will pay in the long term. It pays therefore, for borrowers to ask whether the APR relates only to the headline period or the full duration of the

There are other issues to look at, one of them being the booking fee. Many lenders will charge £295 to arrange the mortgage. But some will levy been known to levy as much at £695. At that price, the rate on offer would have to be amazing for it to be worthwhile.

Alan Mudd, sales manager at John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage brokers, warns of another potential sting in the tail: "Look at the headline rate, coupled with the tie-in period when redemption penalties apply. If you are looking to pay off part of your mortgage early, heavy penalties if you redeem in the first five years can be a sting in the tail you don't need."

Yet many lenders still continue with a policy that impos-- such as six months-worth of interest - even for a two-year fixed rate deal.

Mr Mudd adds: "Look very being charged for cashback morgages [where a percentage of the loan is given back to you is that you get charged a

Jim Chadwick, marketing gives one example of the pressures involved in trying to offer a fair deal to borrowers on cashbacks: "There has been a coning confusion as lenders apply ception that headline price equals 'best price', but with contractual lock-ins to the lender - sometimes for many years - the sting is in the tail.

"For a number of years we were caught in the trap. Simply, we were concerned that locking customers in to variable rates for long period of time could be extremely dangerous to them, particularly if rates were to increase. We therefore set a limit of two years on lock-in period. But as returns from mortgages are driven by lock-ins this meant we could not offer the same levels of cashbacks and effectively withdrew from the price

Interestingly, one recent study shows that over a five-year period between April 1992 and April 1997, a £60,000 mortgage would have cost £22,159 in interest payments with Barclays Mortgages, whereas the supposedly more competitive Nationwide, Britannia and Bradford & Bingley charged between £21,236 and £24,011 over the same period.

As the facts become clearer, customers have tended to look deeper for value, many now being prepared to use to Barclays for their loans.

Alan Mudd, at John Charcarefully at the rate that is col, adds: "Borrowers should also look at the issue of compulsory insurances. Everyone needs insurance, but what I recommend is that people should shop around first and get the best quote for the best home and contents policy.



The nightmare you pay to avoid; many offers are linked to compulsory insurance – and the excessive price can make the whole deal a bad one

it to the cost of compulsory insurance on that attractive mortgage rate. Quite often you will find that what a lender will charge for complushy insurance equates to 0.25 per cent on the mortgage rate." On a £60,000 interest-only loan, that means an extra £12 a month for 25

John Charcol recommends that customers also check whether mortgage indemnity guarantees (MIGs), the insur-

Then, they should compare ance levied from borrowers to check the lender's track record: meet sums owed in the event of default, are applied and what they are. Some lenders charge up to £1,000 more than others for the same-sized loan.

As suggested last week, it also pays to find out when capital repayments are deducted from the outstanding mortgage balance: monthly or daily. The monthly option can save £4,500 in interest payments on a typical £60,000 loan over 25 years. Finally, Mr Mudd advises, coupon on page 3.

"If they lag behind everyone in lowering rates and race to raise them, borrowers will end up paying more, no matter what the adline rate."

Nic Cicuti, personal finance editor, has written a 27-page Guide to Mortgages, available free to readers of The Independent. The guide, sponsored by Barclays Mortgages, is available by calling 0800 585691. Or fill in the

# لمكذا من ألاصل



#### The Houses can sell a home

PENNY JACKSON

area, a brochure with a pic- will not be apeing its wareture of the Houses of Par- house neighbour, opting inliament works a dream. A stead for glass balconies house owner having enor- among other features. There mous difficulty in selling her is not much chance that buyquiet family house in the same neck of the woods off little-known park, was amazed at the success of St Gabriel's Manors advertising

campaign.
She looked enviously as City workers snapped up verted Victorian college which sold heavily on being two miles from Westminthat buyers prefer to take the 0181-508 8881 word of a developer.

The only thing that surprises Simon Coan of though with the restoration Winkworth, who knows the of the last of Regent's Park area well, and used to take terraces? After four years of his children to Myatt's Fields in preference to Battersea Park is the prices people are 40-room mansion and 23 prepared to pay in some apartments. south London develop-

And as soon as the words loft or split level are mentioned, buyers seem to lose all reason. "They come to us saying they have a lovely studio flat and want £130,000 for it, and I have to tell them, not in a million years. I always ask why they paid so the gadgets, like a glassmuch for it. As for the Far East buyers, they see a line saying 10 minutes by taxi to room at the press of a the West End and then pay through the nose."

At least the Far East investors who have just bought off-plan in Galliard Homes Butlers Wharf development can pinpoint exactly where they are. Right on the waterside between the Design Museum and Pont de la Tour in what is now a car

Wiltshire

When it comes to selling in ment block, according to the Camberwell/ Brixton the architectural drawings. ers will do a White House (Galliards' enormously suc-Myatt's Fields, a lovely but cessful South Bank venture) and queue all night.

This Galliard and Frogmore development has sold so well in the Far East that only 23 apartments remain unsold. However, they expect the apartments in a con- nearly all of those to go to owner-occupiers since the rental yield on apartments that start in price at £400,000 ster. In the meantime she is not high. A 1.900 sq ft was constantly having to ex- duplex apartment over two plain to sceptical buyers that floors is being sold for no they didn't have problems £850,000. Shops and with Brixton, and Okay there restaurants are being built were a few rough spots but into the ground- floor all in all it was a very good scheme, and a new multiarea. Which is true, but it's storey car park is going up galling for honest folk to find behind Butlers Wharf. Sales:

> What can compare meticulous work, Cambridge Gate now houses a splendid

> No.1, the mansion, is a cool £15m and comes with its own bespoke Rolls-Royce Silver Spur as well as eight bedroom suites, six reception room, three kitchens, a library, study and orangery.

> At 16,500 sq ft it is one of London's largest residences and is not short of useful litdomed swimming pool which transforms into a ballbutton.

Eleven of the apartments have been released in the first phase, the largest of which is more than 6,000 square feet.

Six apartments have already been sold to a mix of UK, American and Middle Eastern buyers.

Prices range from £1.9m to £3m. Agents are De park. Spice Quay, a 92-apart- Groot Collis: 0171-235 8090.

### ... but some of the mortgages on offer look very tempting

Now that the first round of confixed rates of 6.49 per cent for the rate goes up by 0.2 per cent. same trimmings and no lock-in rates and four years' free cover. versions from building society five years for borrowers who A three-year fixed rate of period to follow on this one. switch, all those borrowers who were locked in to existing nders while awaiting windfalls re free to seek better deals.

to banks has come to an end want less than 75 per cent loans 6.45 per cent is available, and Abbey National's Autumn mortgage collection includes

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ng the to value, and 6.99 per cent for a 10-year rate of 7.59 per cent fering 100 per cent loans at 7.79 up to 95 per cent loans to val- is available on loans up to 95 per ue. Bonuses of up to £325 are cent of valuation, both with sur- 7.89 per cent fixed for five available to cover survey fees vey bonus, booking fee and in- years and 8.39 per cent fixed for

Royal Bank of Scotland is ofper cent fixed for three years,

novative reducing fixed rate 7.49 per cent, 6.99 per cent and then 5.99 per cent in year four, but a booking fee of £250 and surance requirement attached. 10. Free unemployment cover an average of 7.19 per cent. Abbey's own buildings and con- Fixed-rate loans until end-Jan- is available for a year, while Capped mortgages, guaranteed tents insurance are required, or usary 2001 are available with the loans up to 95 per cent get lower

Nationwide is offering an in- out redemption penalties. FirstMortgage has launched mortgage which starts at 8.29

per cent in year one, falling to able-rate mortgage starting at 5.95 per cent to complement its

- Clifford German

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## THE LONDON MOTOR SHOW

# Not Frankfurt, but well worth a spin

We are on the verge of a new age in motoring, and the forthcoming London Motor Show will give punters a taste of what's in store. But in his preview of the show, Gavin Green suggests London may be a pale imitation of Frankfurt's more exciting display of new cars

That it is a mere taste, rather than a fullblown entrée, is a shame, and a reflection of London's lowly international status in the motor show food chain. Our fashion shows may now be world class; our motor shows aren't there yet.

Frankfurt last month was a breathtaking preview of frugal and imaginatively styled small cars, machines that are green and fun. Congested Britain needs such cars at least as badly as Germany. Yet only a sprinkling of the Frankfurt Show stars are crossing the Channel.

There is, for instance, no Smart Car, the ingenious little two-seater "city coupé" made jointly by Mercedes-Benz and Swatch, the watch people, which goes on sale in mainland Europe next spring. UK sales will probably start in 2000.

Nor is there the new Andi Al.2, precursor to a new baby Audi, also slated for the year 2000. With its lightweight aluminium body and direct-injection petrol engine it promises marvellous economy (well over 60mpg), as well as smile-a-mile driving. Instead Audi chooses to show a more powerful version of the handsome A4. This new S4 is hugely desirable. Yet it is an irrelevant cul-de-sac in the grand scheme of things. The AL2 is the future.

We will not see the new Mini, unveiled to a select group at Frankfurt, before quickly disappearing again. That such a crucial new British car was shown in Frankfurt, but not in London, is a rude reminder of where the real power is wielded at BMW-owned Rover these days.

At least we'll see the new Mercedes Aclass, 1997's most impactful car, and probably the greatest leap in small car design since the original Mini. There are so many clever ideas crammed into the Aclass's Mini Metro length, not least a passenger compartment as big as a Ford Mondeo's. Independent tests have suggested that the A-class really is as safe as a bigger Mercedes saloon, an extraordinary achievement. UK sales start in June, and prices begin at about £13,500.

The brand new Golf is another Earls Court must-see. It is nothing like as radical as the A-class and, in the photos, looks like a timid makeover of the old model. Yet it is such a marvellously complete small hatch, better made and classier than the outgoing model, more entertaining to drive, yet reassuringly familiar to former



Golfers. British sales start next spring but prices have already been announced: they start from £11,970 - excellent value. The GTi will cost £15,515.

The new Vauxhall Astra also looks impressive, if conservative. As with the Golf, much is being made about its safety offerings (in Germany, even side airbags are standard). Vauxhall is also playing up its driver appeal, an aspect of the current Astra which is distinctly underwhelming. Lotus has been drafted in to give the new model some suspension finesse.

Also in the small hatchback class, Citroen unveils its new challenger, the Xsara. If you ignore the anonymous looks and the pedigree of the badge, the Xsara is actually a likeable thing. It's roomy, rides with commendable suppleness and has the odd innovative flourish to keep the Citroën name durning, albeit dimiy, it replaces ZX, and goes on sale next month.

lander, the Solihull maker's first-ever small "lifestyle" 4x4. This class has bred some naff cars in the past, yet the Freelander promises to be rather different. It looks imposing (4x4s invariably do) without being too butch, and early impressions suggest a vehicle that's capable on both mud and motorways. The three-door rag roof model also promises to serve up some fun. Mercedes' A-class is Sales start in November. There's a choice of four-cylinder petrol or four-cylinder probably the greatest diesel models, neither of which should be too thirsty - unlike all other Land Rovers.

Just as important in the 4x4 market is the new Mercedes M-class, which also makes its British début. This one targets the bigger Discovery sector, and is bound to give the ageing Disco and the equally arthritic Shogun a pummelling in the showroom. It's Mercedes' first-ever "luxury lifestyle" offroader and is a sign of how this

like a good reason to avoid it. Don't: the car is important, not least because it shows how manufacturers are continuing to diversify their model ranges.

Mind you, another new Mercedes - the V-class people carrier – also provides a clear illustration of the dangers of

## leap in small car design since the original Mini

diversification. This truck-like van is more a luxury minibus than a car-like MPV.

The prettiest model at Earls Court is probably the new Alfa 156, the Italian maker's most serious attempt yet to give the market continues to boom. The M-class. BMW 3-series and the Audi A4 a hard time 9.30am-7pm (9pm on 21,22,230ctober, Apart from the A-class, the star of the on the Benz stand, is part of a Jurassic in the small sports saloon market. It is quite 6pm on 36October). Entry £10 for adults and show is probably the new Land Rover Free- Park: The Lost World display, which sounds gorgeous. V6 and tuneful four-cylinder en- £6 for children under 15 and OAPs.

gines are on offer, and build quality looks to be very close to German levels. Sales start next spring. Of technical interest is its diesel engine.

Clockwise from left: the impactful A-

class Mercedes, a classy new Golf, the impressive looking Freelander, Land

Rover's first ever 'lifestyle' small 4x4,

R447 MCY

and the new Astra.

It's the world's first production unit using new-fangled "common-rail" technology which, in a nutshell, means it's cleaner, faster and more frugal than diesel rivals. Other makers will follow this Fiat initiative, set to give a new lease of life to a type of engine which many thought (and hoped) was on its way out. A final pick: make sure you see the new

Porsche 911, which serves up the best driving experience you'll probably ever get. Sadly, few will ever get the chance. Just look at it, and dream. After all, for most of us, that's what motor shows are all about.

The London Motor Show, held at Earls Court. runs from 15-26October. from

### After a bargain, Guy?

is it really essential to have a brand-new car? Depreciation and VAT instantly cut the value of your motor, James Ruppert advises on the alternatives

Let's take the cynical view: wouldn't a used car do the same job as a gleam ing new one, only more cost-effectively? Here is The Independent's slightly used guide to alternatives, for Motor Show newcomers.

City Cars. Small on the outside, big on the inside, hip all over. The truly innovative Mercedes A Class will be the star of the show. But you won't be able to buy one for the best part of a year. Competitive pricing (£12,000) will see to that as it takes on VW Golf-sized cars. If all you really want is to shulfle around town, the Mini has never been bettered. Pay the most you can afford, avoid rusty ones and the running cost will be minimal. But because most city cars end up being used as: front line vehicles, you might as well upscale to the Fiat Punto. Prices startat £4,000 for a 1994 example.

The 4 x 4 market may be dying. populated by all-weather dinosaurs, but Land Rover's new Freelander threatens to put the fun back. Not much compares with it, although the trendy Toyota RAV 4 has been around for a couple of years - still quite costly at £8,000 to £9,000. The older, rather naff Suzuki Vitara might do, with 1990 models hovering around £4,000.

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Executive cars: a very competitive sector which experiences the biggest depreciation dive. After a few years and a few thousand miles, £30K cars struggle to make £5,000 which is great news for the canny-used-car buyer. Saab have high hopes for their strangely named 9-5, but the 9000 CD saloon it replaces has just as much standard kit and can be picked up for £5,000 to £6,000 as a 1992 model.

As luxury cars Jaguars also tumble quickly out of favour. At the show will be the company's new V8 engined saloons. Brand new they are expensive, £50,000 for the XIR. If you like the gorgeous shape the old six cylinder engines are just as smooth and a 1995 3.2 litre will cost just £24.000.

Hatchbacks: the all-new Golf makes it's debut at Earls Court. Bigger and arguably better than previous Golfs, it is more refined and more expensive. But for basic hatchback duties the old one will still do the job, although they are not cheap: a 1.8 litre from 1992 still costs around £6.000.

In the saloon and hatchback sector there may not be much new, although all the usuai Vauxhall Vectra, Peugeot 406 and Ford Mondeo suspects will be out in force to tempt the company car buyer. There are more of these cars built than there are customers. Find a low mileage, six month old example at a huge saving. A Ford Mondeo 2.0i GLX hatchback which cost £14,465 in 1996, ought to be no more than £9,000 after £10,000 miles. Ditto a Vauxhall Vectra 2.0 GLS, a mere £12,000 for a 1997 car with 5,000 miles under it's wheels.

Sports: The Porsche 911 is up for replacement. The new 911 looks similar enough to the old car but the new engine is now water, rather than air cooled. There will be an interminable waiting list even at an approximate £65,000 asking price.

The four wheel drive Carrera 4 starts in the early £20K region for a 1989 example. One which is a little older might just slip under the £20k wire. and best of all, you will virtually get your money back after a year of fun. What new car can promise you that?

### A-plus for this Alfa, as a classic comes back to life

There are more significant cars at the show, but for Gavin Green, who learnt to drive on a rusty Seventies Alfasud, the new Alfa 156 is the one that brings the biggest smile.

Alfa has been in a bad way for the past few decades. Yet despite the rust, breakdowns, wacky designs, perplexing cabins and general pointlessness of many recent models, there is still a magic about the marque. It is partly the name, so tonguerollingly romantic, and partly its past. There have been many great old Alfas. Tragically, there have been very few great new ones.

The new 156 promises much more. It looks so lovely, for starters. Not extravagant, not excessive, not particularly eyecatching, rather, like all good design, it has a handsome basic form and caps it with pleasing and imaginative trimmings. The apparent deletion of rear-door handles (they are subtly hidden in a small panel in the corner of the rear window) gives this sporty saloon the look of a coupé, and makes for especially clean flanks. The frontdoor handles are old-fashioned alloy affairs,

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878 BH | 500 | HK 474 | 170 | 4400 | SAD 196 | 1,800 |
CGW 690 L500 | HK 474 | 170 | MB 1345 | 1,200 | SAD 196 | 1,800 |
CGW 690 L500 | HK 474 | 170 | MB 1345 | 1,200 | SAD 196 | 1,800 |
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CGW 690 L500 | HK 691 | 3,800 | MB 145 | 1,200 |
CGW 690 L500 | HK 691 | 1,200 | MB 125 | 1,200 |
CGW 690 L500 | JL 1965 | 1,200 | MPW 29E | 500 |
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redolent of great Alfas of the past yet substantial and pleasing to touch and operate. It also drives beautifully, composed yet brisk, fluent yet with a hint of fury.

The 156 aims to shake up the German makers' dominance of the small sporty saloon market, currently owned by the Audi A4 and BMW 3-series. It is at least as good as these cars, yet more distinctive.

Its excellence should come as no surprise. After all, Alfa really invented the sector, in the Fifties and Sixties, with delicious-looking and driving cars such as Giulias and Giuliettas. They weren't that reliable and they rusted; but few who owned one (and I did) failed to love it. They had such personality and character: such melodious motors, such wholly involving mechanicals (you could almost physically feel the gears meshing). And they were so engaging, on the road, that it was almost as if the four wheels were strapped to your knees and elbows. Your felt very close to the action

State-owned Alfa, like state-owned BL, lost its way dreadfully in the Seventies. Factories were built to provide jobs rather than to make good new cars. Thus the new Pomigliano factory, near Naples, provided work for unemployed locals from Italy's a crummy little Nissan Cherry made at the It was my first and worst car. A

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deprived south. It also served up the worst-made European car of the Seventies. the Alfasud.

My mother owned one and I learnt to drive on it. The interior trim peeled off like the skin of a rotting piece of fruit. And, talking of rot, no car rusted faster. You could almost see, and hear, the decay spreading. so quick was the self-destruction. Our lovely red Alfasud soon turned into a less fetching shade of oxidised orange, bordered by shades of crumbling brown and, soon after, little peek-a-boo holes. Our car quickly became a colander.

Yet it was marvellous to drive! It was engineered in Milan, where Alfas have always come from, and had the most fantastic engine, handling and brakes of its era. But great design is useless if it is badly made. The Alfasud was potentially the greatest car of the Seventies. Instead, it was

the most tragic. The Eighties got off to an equally unpromising start. Remember the Alfa Romco Arna? It was probably the single most misguided machine of the decade. A joint venture with Nissan, desperate to secure a European manufacturing base in the days before Sunderland, the Arna was

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The Alpha 156: like all good design, it has a handsome basic form capped with imaginative trimmings

blighted Sud factory. It was the worst possible combination. The world was crying out for an Alfa produced to Japanese standards. Instead, it got a character-free Nissan built in Italy. Nobody bought it.

Yet, unlike BL's sporty saloon brand, Triumph, Alfa has survived. More important, under the protection of a cash-rich and innovative parent, Fiat, it is prospering again. Even the dreaded Pomigliano factory now churns out tightly assembled, quality cars.

The 156 is a Pornigliano product, and while it may not be quite as bulletproof as an Audi A4, it is jolly close. So do go and ogle the 156 at the Earl's Court show. You will not only see a lovely car, you will also be witnessing the rejuvenation of a muchloved marque.

### MY WORST CAR/JONATHAN COLEMAN

# The red crock that lured the girls

really beautiful 1969 Fiat 124 Sport, finished in red. I paid A\$2,000 (£900) for it and within a year had sunk another \$5,000 into the thing.

It cost me money straightaway because the Fiat had a manual transmission and I had learnt to drive in an automatic. At that time, though, all you had to do was pay for another five lessons and you could switch to a stick shift. So when I started to drive the little Fiat

full-time, the fun really started. The clutch went within days. The heater was a strange device, which either did not work or jammed on permanently so that after a few minutes' driving you would have to open all the windows. Some crucial mechanical parts were less than perfect, which included vague



Coleman: when the Fiat broke down, I slept in it'

steering and even more vague brakes. Most of the time I had to pull up the hand-brake to bring the Fiat to a halt. Never mind brake fade, there was paint fade too as the red body got duller by the day. I vividly remember gaskets leaking, oil being everywhere and having to replace them constantly. It came to a head when I was

driving through Sydney one night in torrential rain and the Fiat just stopped dead. This was in the days before mobile phones. The choice was either to trudge through water looking for a phone box, or staying with the car. That was a simple choice: I slept in the Fiat.

Otherwise, it was a very groovy car. Parked outside my house it looked great and made a lovely sporty noise from the exhaust, a very distinctive gargle that all the best Italian cars make.

Basically, the Fiat did what is was intended to do and that was attract girls. Maybe that is a girl and later sold it to an-

other. She came and cheeffully collected it from Canberra, but that wasn't the last I heard from her. A few days later she was on the phone complaining that the clutch had gone. Now I'd just had a reconditioned one fitted and the mechanics told me there was six months' life left in it. Maybe they meant to say six weeks.

I only hope that she's not reading this: I can imagine the 124 still being parked outside her house on bricks and her being bitter and twisted about the fact that I lumbered her with the old dear.

Jonathan Coleman presents 'Mixing It' on Channel 5, at 6.30pm on Sundays. He co-presented Russ'n Jono's Breakfast why I originally bought it from Experience' on Virgin Radio. He was talking to James Ruppert.

